# 佐武と市捕物控 7

## ―氷の朔日―

石森章太郎

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO

■闇の世界に光が灯る。盲目のまま生き続けた市の目が開くというのだ。手術は成功した。だが、剣の音を聞きつけた市は、自分の目を犠牲にして、医者と佐武とを守ろうとした。■身よりのない佐武と、盲目の市の間に芽生えた友情は、どんな絆よりも強かった。佐武と市との心のふれ合いを描く、友情編。

デザイン　上井ヒロテル
カバー装画　角田純男

佐武と市捕物控 7
石森章太郎

277
小学館文庫
330

# 佐武と市捕物控 7

石森章太郎

277

小学館文庫

330

0170-280277-3068　　定価330円

■同じ著者による「小学館文庫」収録作品■

「サイボーグ009」
第１巻＝００９誕生編＝　定価290円
第２巻＝暗殺者編＝　定価330円
第３巻＝放浪編＝　定価260円
第４巻＝ベトナム編＝　定価330円
第５巻＝火山島〝マグマ〟編＝　定価330円
第６巻＝地下帝国〝ヨミ〟前編＝定価330円
第７巻＝地下帝国〝ヨミ〟後編＝定価330円
第８巻＝怪人島編＝　定価290円
第９巻＝中東編＝　定価290円
第10巻＝海の底編＝　定価290円
第11巻＝移民編＝　定価290円
第12巻＝エッダ編＝　定価260円
第13巻＝風の都編＝　定価330円
第14巻＝海底ピラミッド編《前編》定価430円
第15巻＝海底ピラミッド編《後編》定価380円

「佐武と市捕物控」（１～13巻）
定価＝260～330円

「馬がゆく！」（全４巻・完結）
定価＝290～330円

「ジュン」（全１巻）　定価430円

「九頭竜」（１巻）　定価430円

# 佐武と市捕物控 7

## ═氷の朔日═

石森章太郎

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO

■闇の世界に光が灯る。盲目のまま生き続けた市の目が開くというのだ。手術は成功した。だが、剣の音を聞きつけた市は、自分の目を犠牲にして、医者と佐武とを守ろうとした。■身よりのない佐武と、盲目の市の間に芽生えた友情は、どんな絆よりも強かった。佐武と市との心のふれ合いを描く、友情編。

デザイン　上井ヒロテル
カバー装画　角田純男

佐武と市捕物控 7
石森章太郎

277
小学館文庫
330

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO

0170-280277-3068　　定価330円

■同じ著者による「小学館文庫」収録作品■

「サイボーグ009」
第１巻＝００９誕生編＝　定価280円
第２巻＝暗殺者編＝　定価330円
第３巻＝放浪編＝　定価260円
第４巻＝ベトナム編＝　定価330円
第５巻＝火山島〝マグマ〟編＝　定価330円
第６巻＝地下帝国〝ヨミ〟前編＝定価330円
第７巻＝地下帝国〝ヨミ〟後編＝定価330円
第８巻＝怪人島編＝　定価280円
第９巻＝中東編＝　定価280円
第10巻＝海の底編＝　定価280円
第11巻＝移民編＝　定価280円
第12巻＝エッダ編＝　定価260円
第13巻＝風の都編＝　定価330円
第14巻＝海底ピラミッド編〈前編〉定価430円
第15巻＝海底ピラミッド編〈後編〉定価380円

「佐武と市捕物控」（１～13巻）
定価＝260～330円

「馬がゆく！」（全４巻・完結）
定価＝280～330円

「ジュン」（全１巻）　定価490円

「九頭竜」（１巻）　定価430円

# 佐武と市捕物控 7

―氷の刺白―

石森章太郎

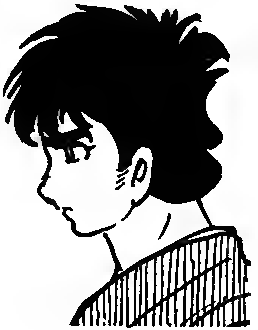
小学館文庫

佐武と市捕物控 7

石森章太郎

小学館文庫

Shogakukan Bunkos
Sabu and Ichi's
Detective Stories
Volume 7
By Shotaro Ishinomori



Published by
Shogakukan

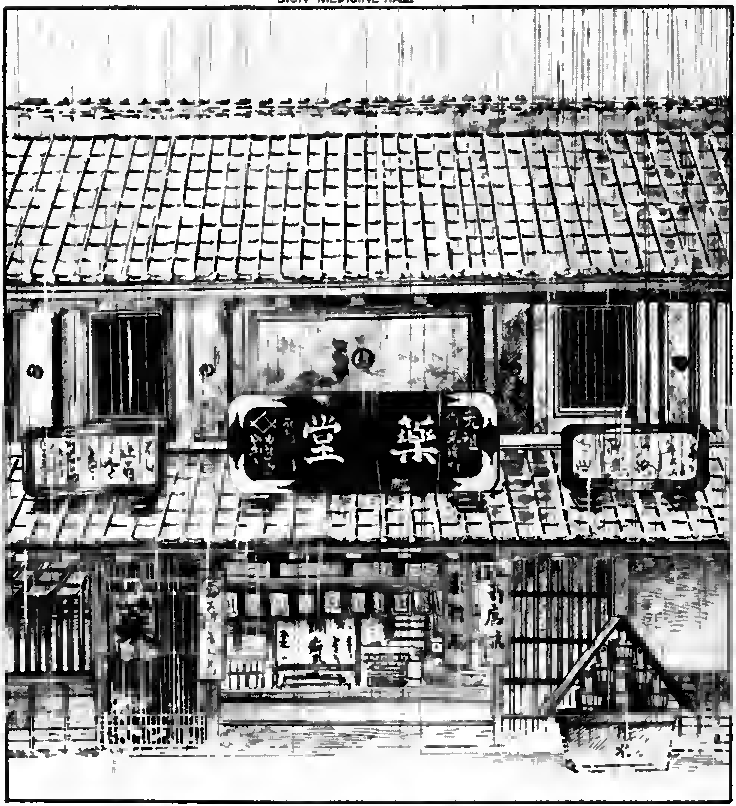
# Sabu and Ichi's Detective Stories Volume 7 Contents

Chapter 37: First Day of Ice
Chapter 38: To Kill
Chapter 39: Fire Bed
Chapter 40: Mad Dog
Chapter 41: Starling

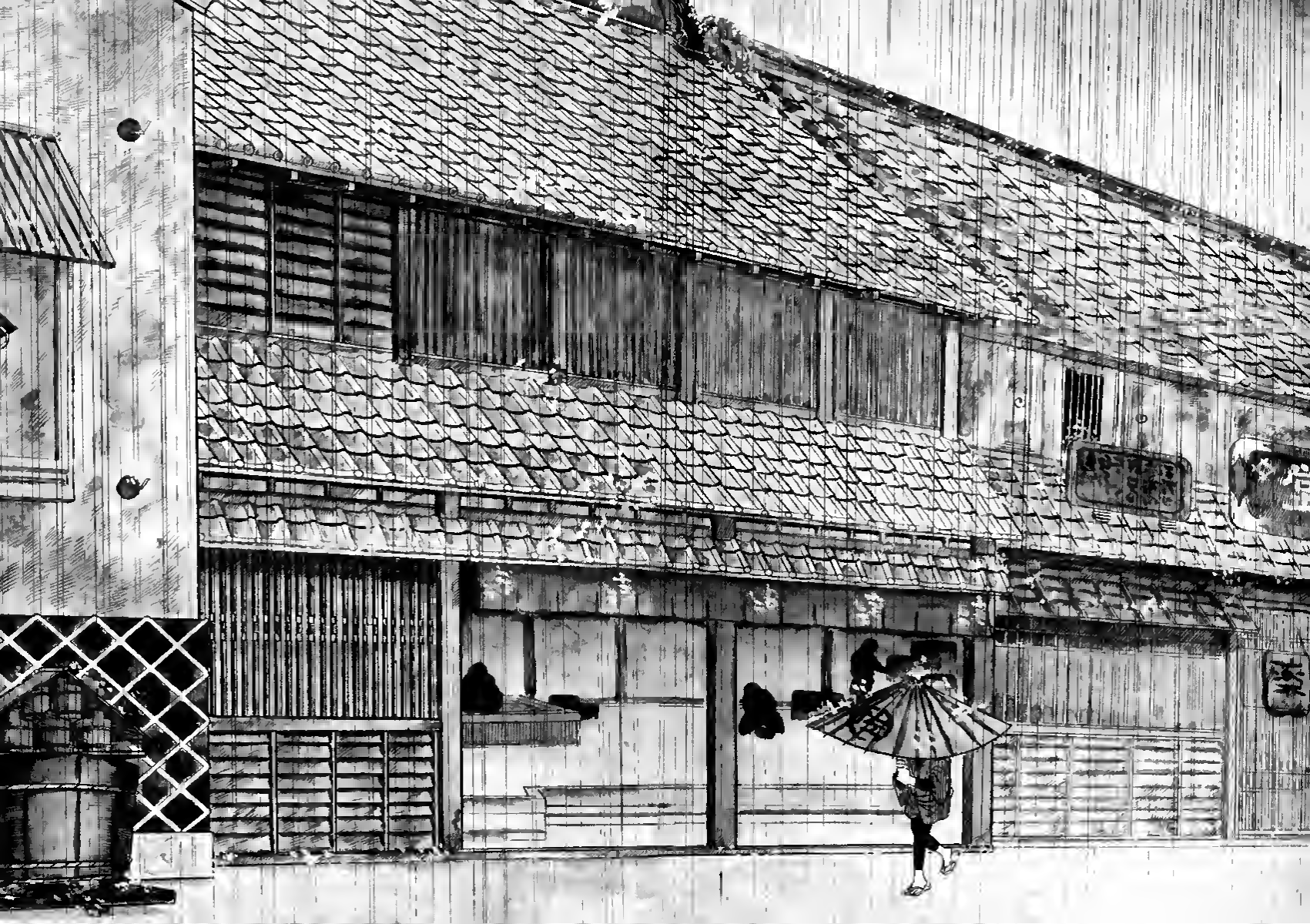
Cover Illustration by Gen'ichi Takise

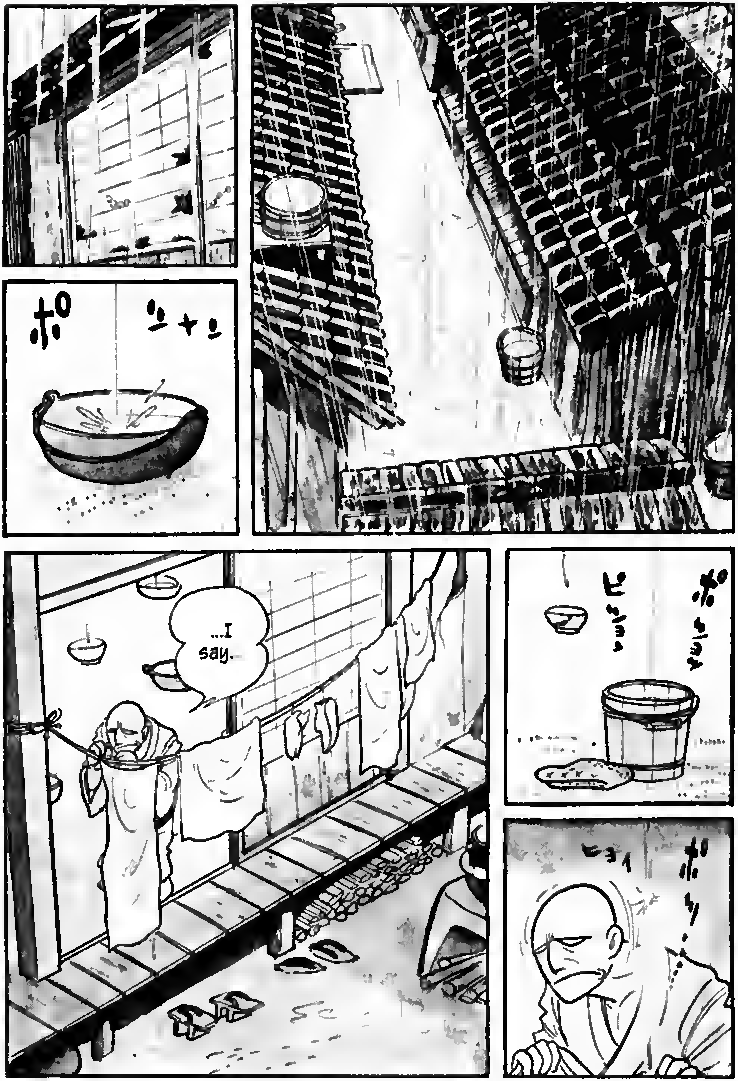
# Chapter 37: First Day of Ice

SIGN MEDICINE HALL



I would appreciate it for you to send people out to search anytime you have a clue of her whereabouts.
Also... IF anything by chance should happen...
Yes, well I hope you are able to find her.
I'll call for a search, and we'll look every which-way for her.
Yes.
Yes, we'll let you know immediately.
Or someone comes using your daughter as an excuse to pester you for money...
Well, I mean... Like you get a note...
Huh...!?
Well, thank you for your time...

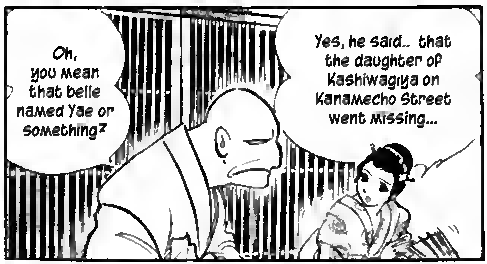



...I say...
ポ…ちょ
ピ…ョン
ヒョイ

And moldy...
On top of that, everything's gotten damp...
If this rain keeps up any longer, I won't have any clean loincloths to wear...
Every single year, the rainy season brings nothing but trouble...
Not another roof leak!!
Hmm?
Let's see...
Slug!!
Now what do I have left to catch the rain...
I-I can't bear it anymore
Dammit!!

With weather like this, going out's better than staying in...

Sorry, but Sabu's out right now
Oh, Matsu-no-Ichi?
Is Sabu around?


Oh, you mean that belle named Yae or something?
Yes, he said... that the daughter of Kashiwagiya on Kanamecho Street went missing...

What, something happen?

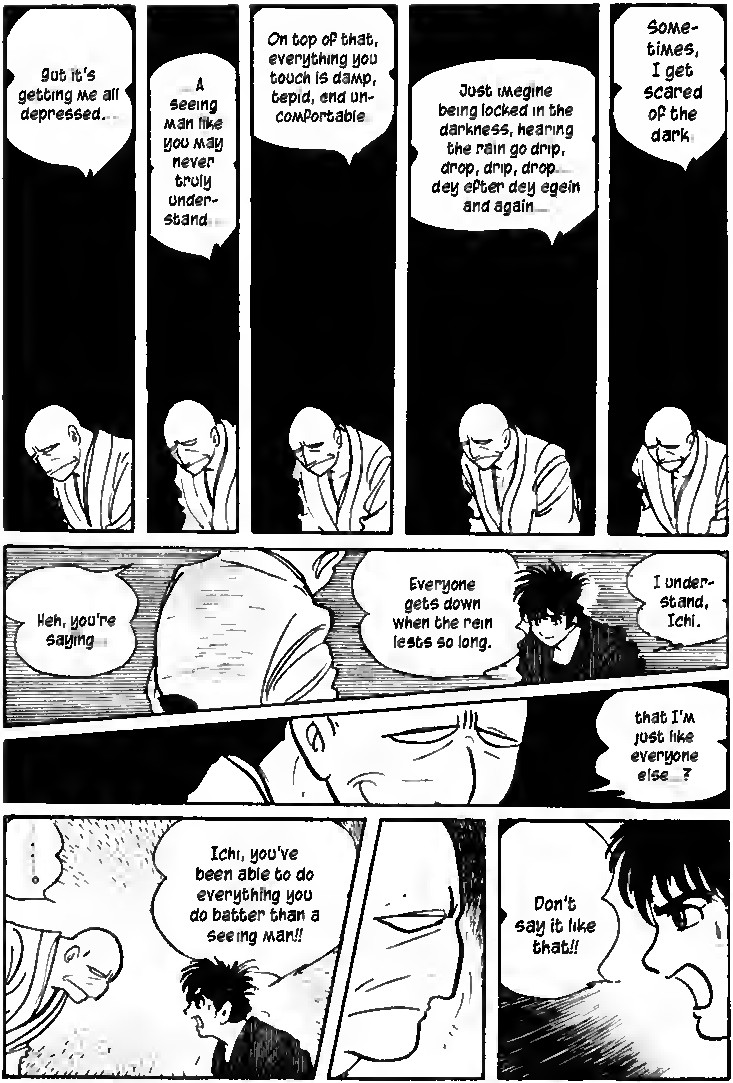
Huh!?
So why don't you come on in and wait for him? You've come to play another boring game of shogi, anyway, right?
Teehee..
But he should be home soon enough.
...I see.
Hmm, I see
Ah!!
...Whoa!!
Alright, I'll take you up on your offer..
Hehehe.. You're a clever one, Midori. Guess you take after your father.
Heh, you got that right.
W-What happened, Ichi!?
OW, OW...
Well, anyone could've guessed that one.
I mean... why else do you ever come here?
I-I just slipped... The ground was wet... This is another reason I don't care for the rainy season... I mean it!
I'M HOME!!
Oh!!
T-Thanks for the help.

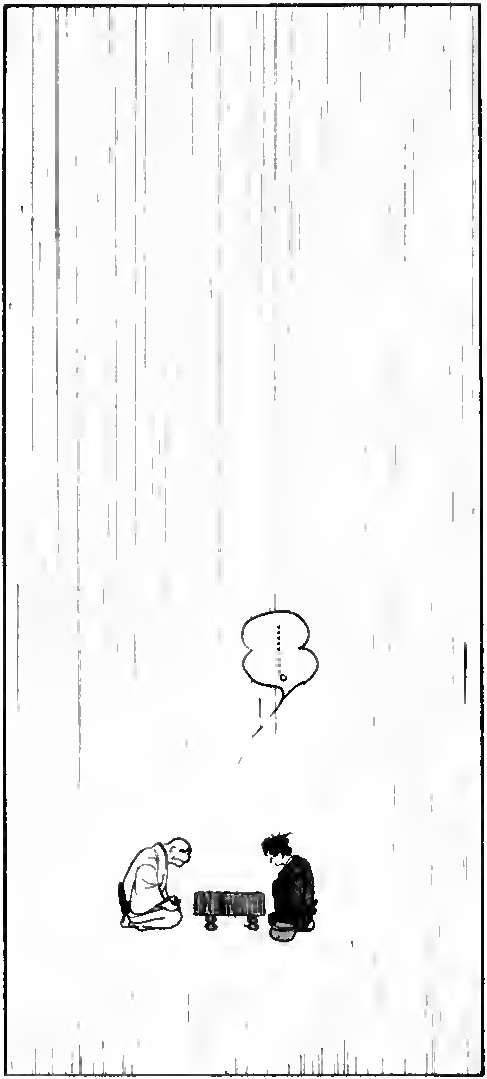
Hey, now, what're you talking about, Mudori?
Ichi knows his way around the house.
So Ichi, do you mind waiting in my room for a while
I've got to go tell the Boss about the information I gathered
Hey, Ichi glad to see you.
Hehhe... You heard him.
Sure, take your time.
Are you alright, Ichi?
Hehhe... Why, thanks
Welcome home.
But... Ichi seems a little off today...
...Don't you worry. Trying to help Ichi too much just makes him feel worse
Huh?

Hey, Sabu. Taken care of business?
What's the matter, Ichi? Why've you left the doors open...?
Then let's get to it.
...Heheh, Ichi, it's not shut on this end.
...Ichi!
Oh, whoa, whoa! S-Sorry.
I think it's just my blindness. Everything else about me feels a little too fine for my liking!
Heh, out of the question!
Don't hide it from me... You aren't feeling well today, are you?
I see. I hope you're right.

And be it from diseases or anything else, people tend to feel a little unwell during the rainy season.
You've just been acting a little strange today...
The sound of the rain is just grating on my nerves a little, that's all.
Hehhe... It's nothing..

What's bothering you, Ichi? You haven't won a damn game at all today!
Something's definitely bothering you, Ichi.
ギャラ
Sorry, Sabu. Truth is...
Heh... he...
don't mock me.
...But Sabu,
And that's what I'm thinking, too.
...Hehhe... You must be thinking "Why now?"...
I'm a little embarrassed to admit it... But I'm getting frustrated with my blindness


Got it's getting me all depressed...
...A seeing man like you may never truly understand...
On top of that, everything you touch is damp, tepid, and uncomfortable
Just imagine being locked in the darkness, hearing the rain go drip, drop, drip, drop... day after day again and again...
Sometimes, I get scared of the dark.
Heh, you're saying...
Everyone gets down when the rain lasts so long.
I understand, Ichi.
that I'm just like everyone else...?
Ichi, you've been able to do everything you do better than a seeing man!!
Don't say it like that!!

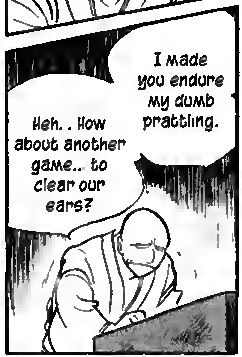


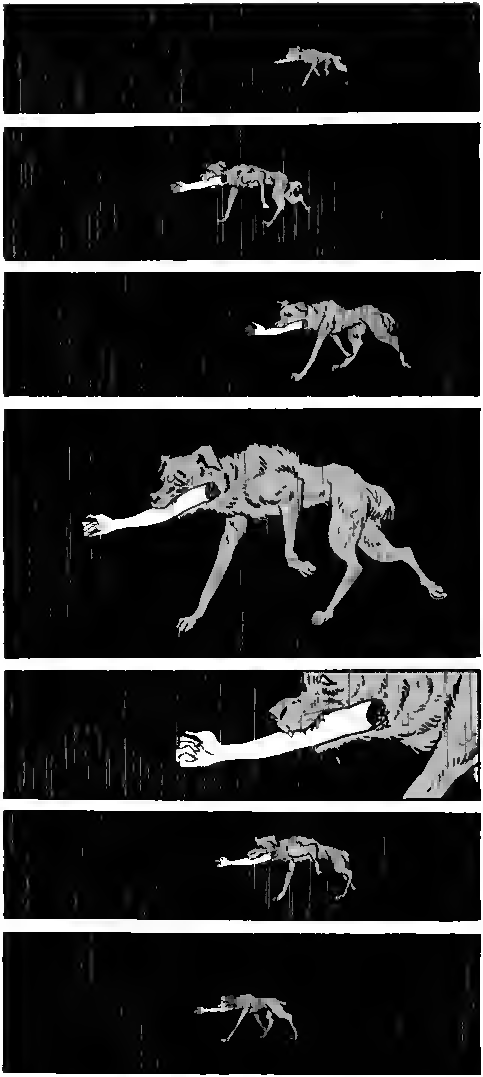
Even I .. I've stuck with you all this time, without once...
thinking anything of your blindness!!

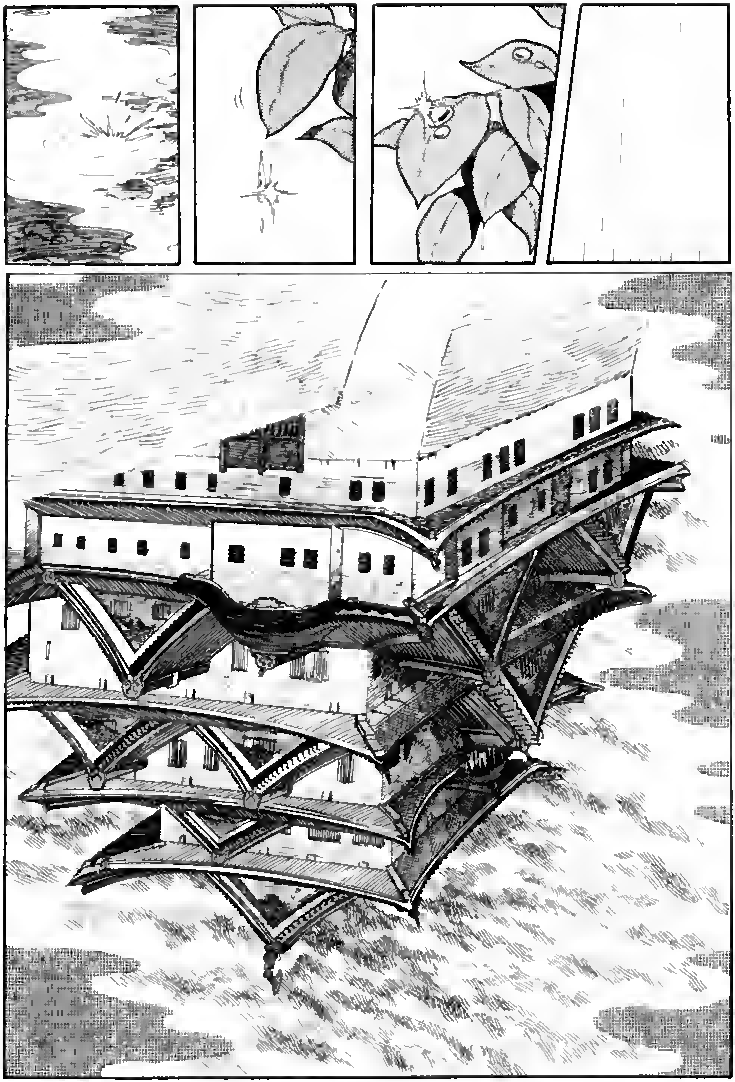
Sometimes, I think it'd be more shameful if you could see ..

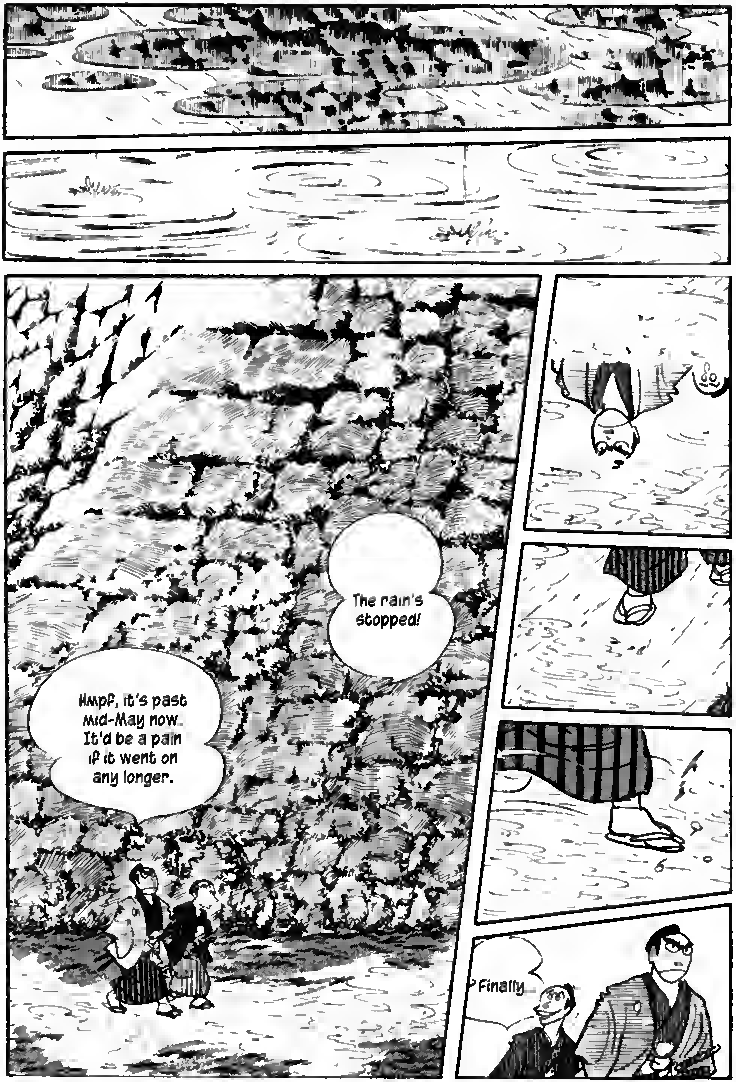
And yet.. Why are you..?

Sorry, Sabu
Sorry


I made you endure my dumb prattling.
Heh.. How about another game.. to clear our ears?



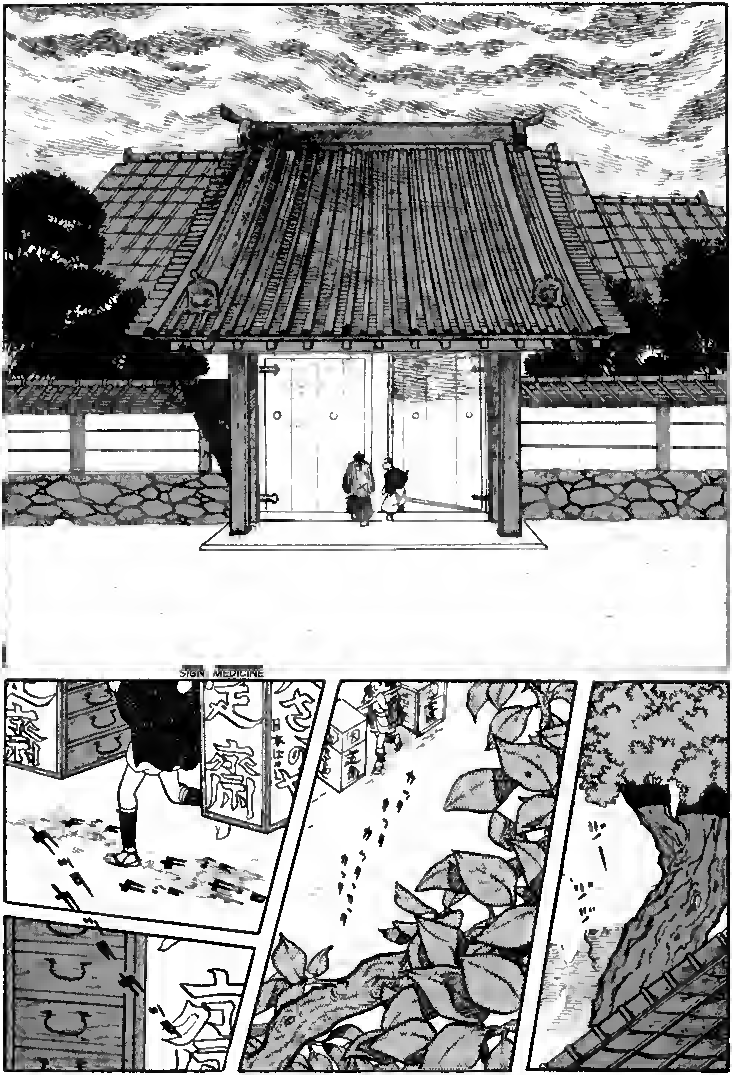


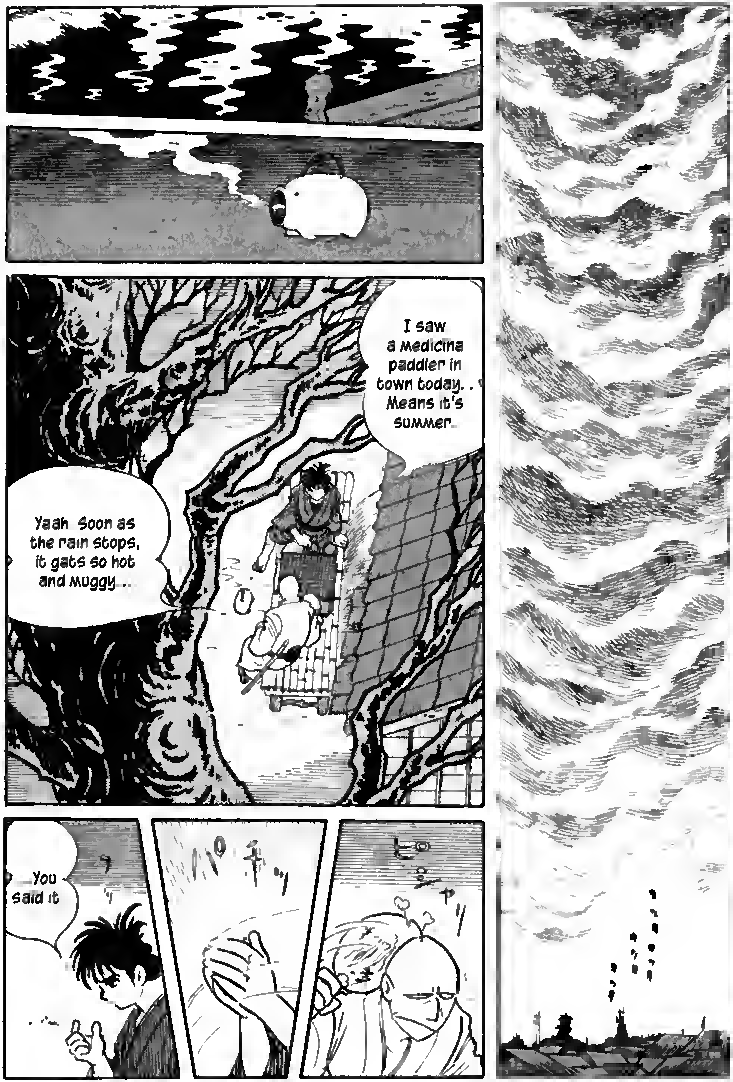

The rain's stopped!
Hmpf, it's past Mid-May now. It'd be a pain if it went on any longer.
Finally

Still, I'm envious! You were selected to deliver the Shogun's Ice!
Heheh..
This is the first time someone as young as you has done it, right?
So it seems
..Which would mean.. that your success is all but guaranteed!
Come to think of it, don't you have an important mission on the first of June?
When will you head over..?
Hmm, I think I'll be leaving in about two or three days...
I would imagine..
I've heard that carrying ice from Sunpu (Shizuoka) to Edo is an arduous task..
But then again
Looking forward to when you do, comrade
Hehehe.. I suppose it is..
but by the time it gets to Edo, it's only two shaku on each side..
..I hear that when the ice is first cut from Fuji, it's three shaku on each side..
And that's only if the skies are cloudy..

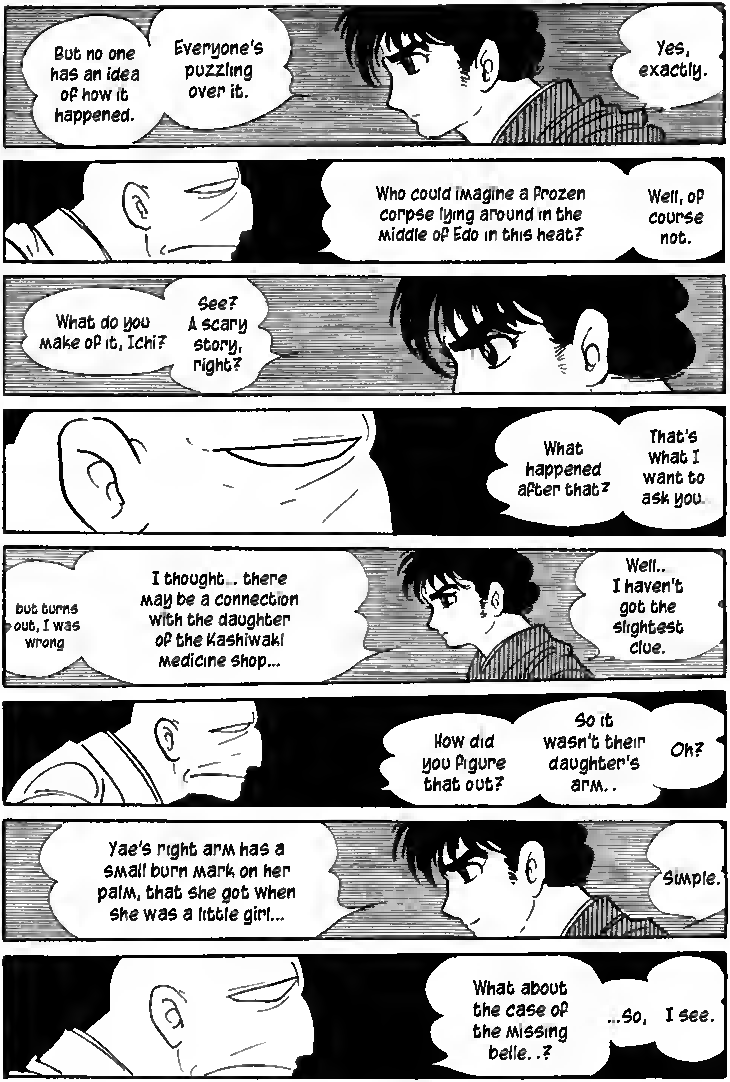
You got a plan to prevent that from happening?
And if that happens, you won't get success but a beheading...
You may end up just bringing water.
If it's dry and the skies are fair...
Oh... Hmm, if you're that cocky, you must have one.
Well, yes.
Well, I'll be praying for your success, for my sake as well.
Hehehe...
Now I... have some business to attend to...
Just trust me.
I hope he fails and gets his head lopped off!!
Tch...
No matter.
Hehe he...
...Heh!
!!
Hmm!?

I wish to see the Minister.
Tell him that Kisaragi Gennosuke is here..


SIGN MEDICINE


I saw a medicine paddler in town today. . Means it's summer.
Yaah. Soon as the rain stops, it gets so hot and muggy...
...You said it
パチッ

ミャリ
Don't you agree, Sabu?
Hehehe .. When it gets this muggy .. You start to long for scary stories ..
I can't stand it!
And the arm was cold and chilly..
A stray dog was found with a woman's arm in its mouth...
Recently ..
Hmm, hmm...
Or perhaps I should say...
the arm alone was sticking up out of its grave...
It was as if ..
it wasn't the usual coldness of a corpse...
But,
That kind of cold...?
...that until recently, it was buried in the snow.. or frozen in ice...

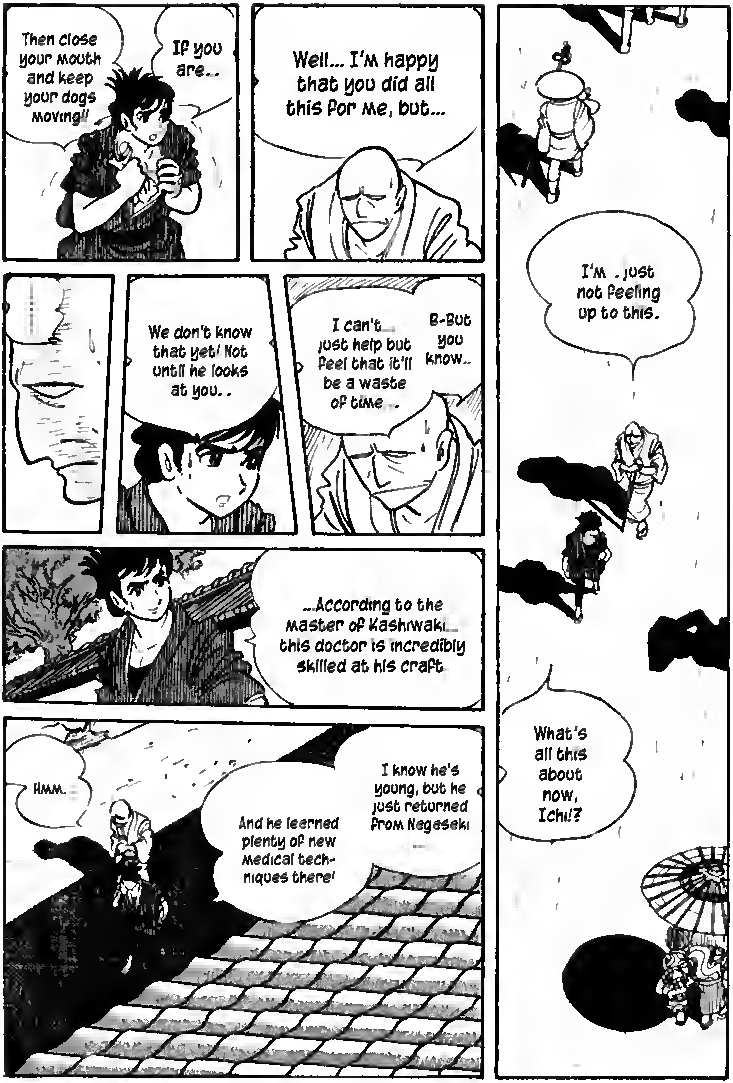

But no one has an idea of how it happened.
Everyone's puzzling over it.
Yes, exactly.
Who could imagine a frozen corpse lying around in the middle of Edo in this heat?
Well, of course not.
What do you make of it, Ichi?
See? A scary story, right?
What happened after that?
That's what I want to ask you.
but turns out, I was wrong
I thought... there may be a connection with the daughter of the Kashiwaki medicine shop...
Well.. I haven't got the slightest clue.
How did you figure that out?
So it wasn't their daughter's arm..
Oh?
Yae's right arm has a small burn mark on her palm, that she got when she was a little girl...
Simple.
What about the case of the missing belle..?
...So, I see.

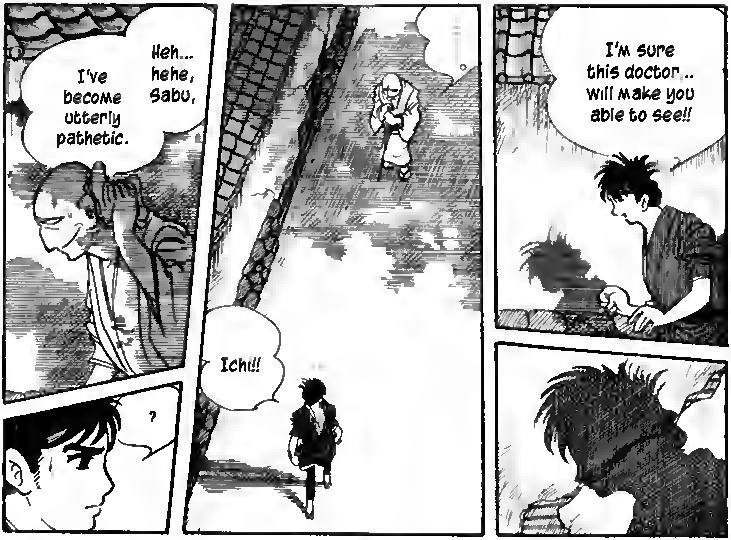
I'm getting sick of it!
No idea on that front, either.
Well that's unsatisfying
Ah, hold it!
Really

Yes. This year it's a young man by the name of Kisaragi Gennosuke in charge..
Just... three more days.
Then the task of delivering ice will be more difficult... Hehehe
Yes.
When the day comes, I will send one of my men to you. I'm counting on you.
Make sure not to make any oversights
I've said this before, but I'll say it again
Hehehe... I already know, Minister
This is probably going to be the last rainfall.
If the rain will stop tomorrow, summer will come at once
Hmm
Hehe...
I've done what I could from inside, but your youth is what's the problem...
...By the way, regarding your access to the Shogun...

I guess those thick-heads in the castle are still alive and well
Precisely.
But still, it's only a matter of time now...
That's what I hope.
...Medicine is advancing every year.
And not based on old experience, but on new knowledge.
SIGN IKEDA HOAN
池田抱庵
I...
I wish to use my skills...
in the service of the Shogun!!

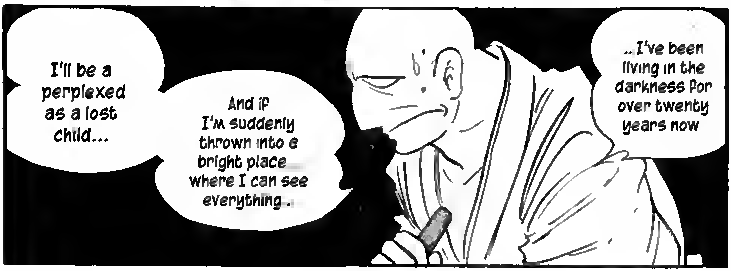
Huh? What is it, Ichi?
S-Sabu..

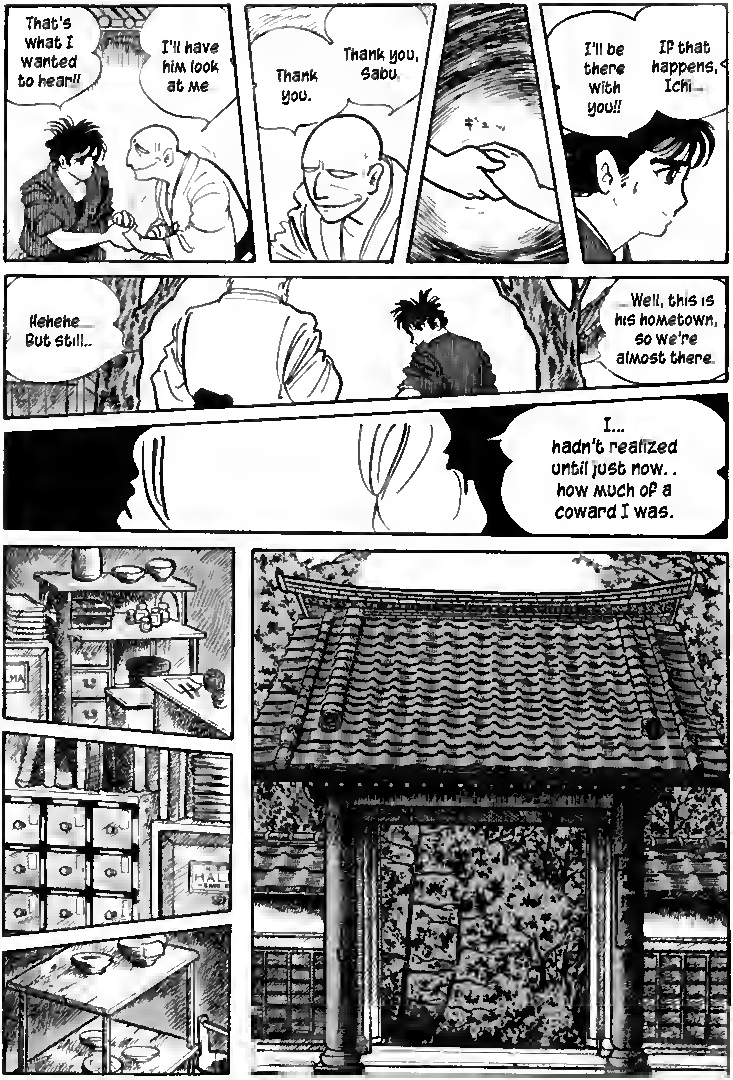

Then close your mouth and keep your dogs moving!!
If you are...
Well... I'm happy that you did all this for me, but...
I'm . just not feeling up to this.
We don't know that yet! Not until he looks at you. .
I can't... just help but feel that it'll be a waste of time ..
B-But you know..
...According to the master of Kashiwaki... this doctor is incredibly skilled at his craft.
What's all this about now, Ichi!?
Hmm...
And he learned plenty of new medical techniques there!
I know he's young, but he just returned from Nagasaki


I've become utterly pathetic.
Heh... hehe, Sabu.
?
Ichi!!
I'm sure this doctor.. will make you able to see!!

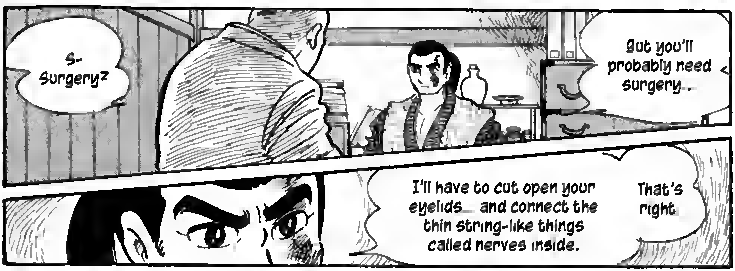
But I'm also I'm afraid that he'll say he can heal me..
I'm terrified that he'll look at me and tell me that I have no hope for recovery...
I just thought it over... and I'm scared of having the doctor look at me..

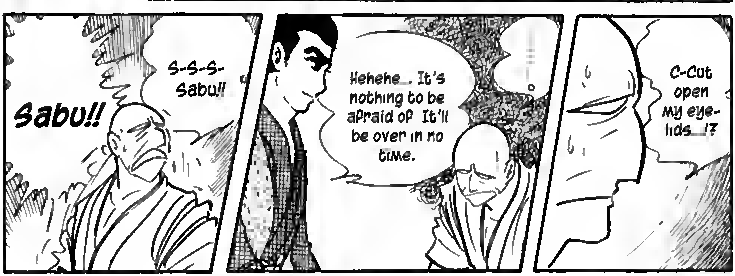
W-Why?


I'll be a perplexed as a lost child...
And if I'm suddenly thrown into a bright place... where I can see everything..
..I've been living in the darkness for over twenty years now


That's what I wanted to hear!!
I'll have him look at me.
Thank you.
Thank you, Sabu.
I'll be there with you!!
If that happens, Ichi...
Hehehe... But still...
...Well, this is his hometown, so we're almost there.
I... hadn't realized until just now... how much of a coward I was.

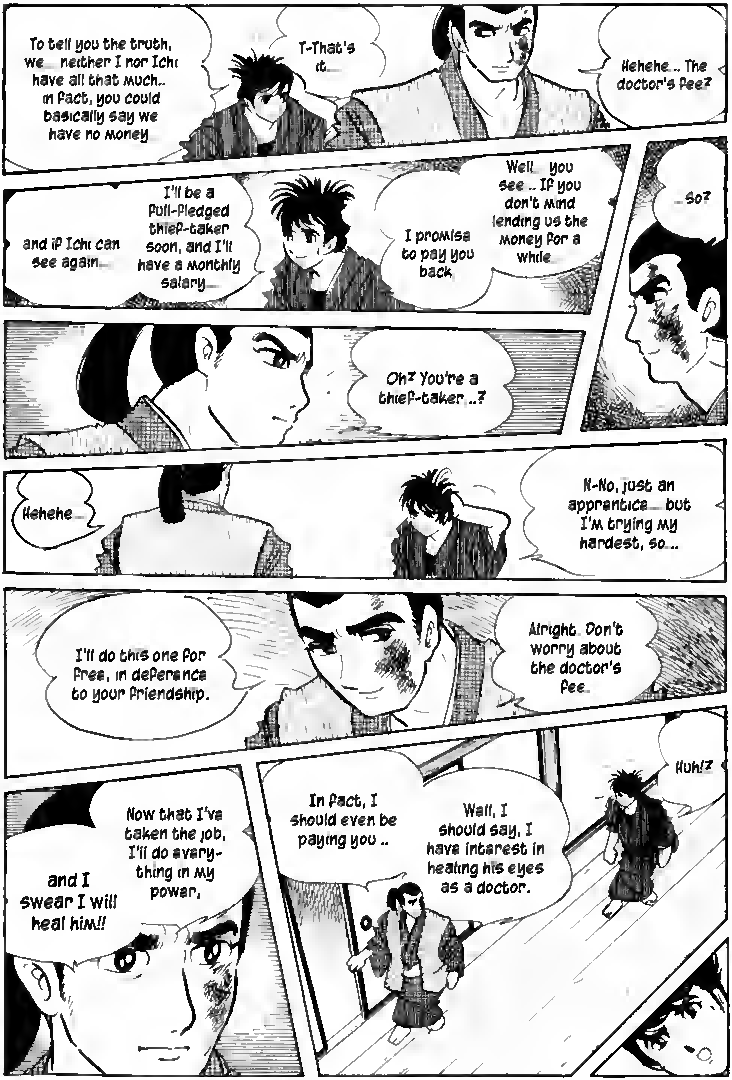
R-Really ...!?
This is curable, Masseur.
Heheh... I wouldn't lie to you.
Huh!?
..Hmm..


S-Surgery?
But you'll probably need surgery..
I'll have to cut open your eyelids... and connect the thin string-like things called nerves inside.
That's right.


Sabu!!
S-S-S-Sabu!!
Heheheh... It's nothing to be afraid of. It'll be over in no time.
C-Cut open my eyelids...!?

My eyes... c-can be healed!!
Ichi!?
S-Sabu, h-he can cut them open!!
H-He can cut open my eyes .. and make me see!!
T-Thank goodness, Ichi!!!
Yes, yes, yes ..!!
W-Whet's wrong, Ichi!?
Hehehe .. Well...
Feel free to discuss it with your friend before you decide whether or not to take the surgery
But... Why are you trembling so much?
Heh... hehe .. Told you I'm a coward
I don't think anything about cutting others... but when I'm going to be cut just a tiny bit.. it's scary!!
Besides, it's because I was a coward... and blind and helpless, that I took up the sword...
I must be alright with cutting others because I can't see them after I cut them
I'm sure .. if I were able to see...
I'll suddenly get too scared to cut anyone.
Forget other people... I don't think I'd have it in me to cut a sewing thread. Heh... hehehe...

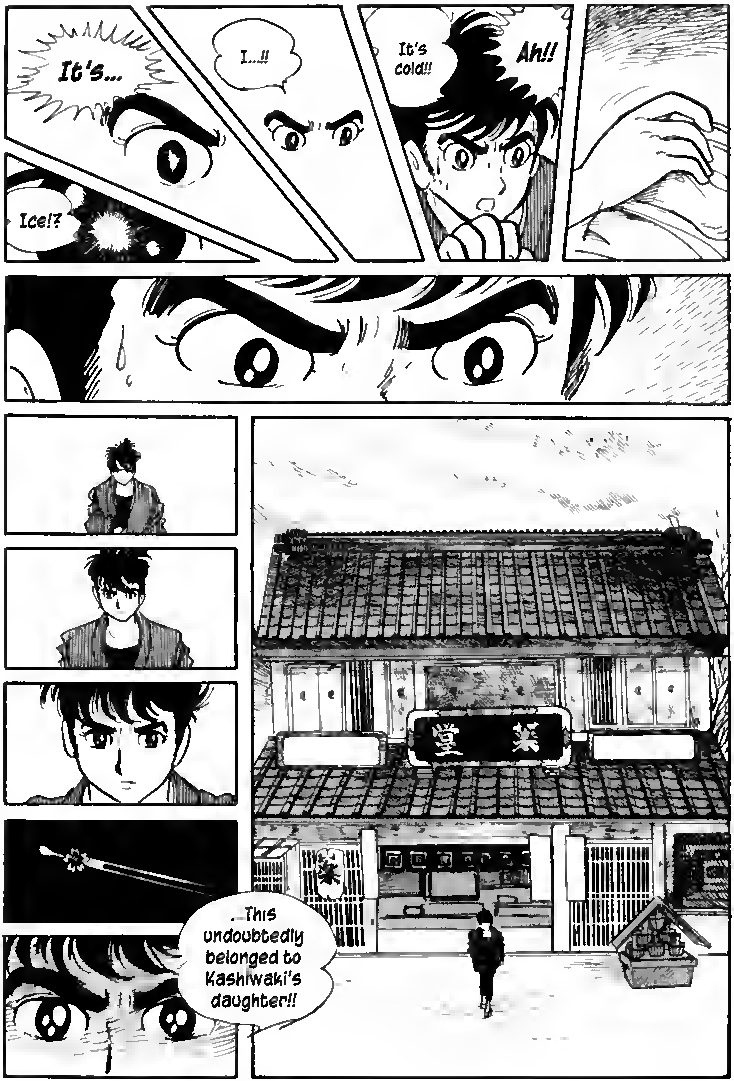
and cut off tras with me!
E-Evan if you do... I hope you don't saa my paca... say that it looks awful...
Haha... Ichi,
Ahahaha hahaha
Hahe he...
Haha... hehehehehehe...
Heha... Haha-haha...
Thank you, Sabu.
...Alright, I'll go tell the doctor.
What're you talking about now, bastard!?
Yes
I'll leava him in your care, Doctor.
...Seems you've come to a decision
Do it right away
Well... I was hoping to talk over something with you first...
But, Doctor
Uh...
I'll get the preparations done immediabely
I understand You can leave him with me

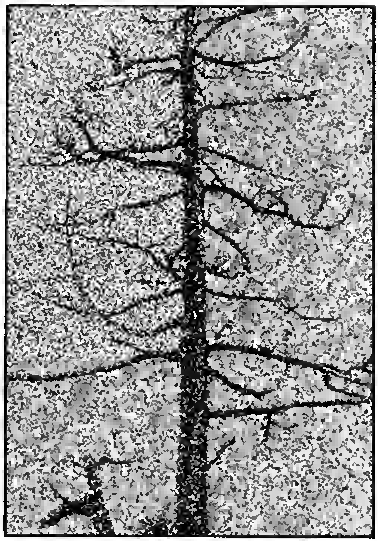

To tell you the truth, we... neither I nor Ichi have all that much... In fact, you could basically say we have no money
T-That's it...
Hehehe... The doctor's Pee?
and if Ichi can see again...
I'll be a full-fledged thief-taker soon, and I'll have a monthly salary...
I promise to pay you back
Well... you see... If you don't mind lending us the money for a while...
...So?
Oh? You're a thief-taker...?
Hehehe...
N-No, just an apprentice... but I'm trying my hardest, so...
I'll do this one for free, in deference to your friendship.
Alright. Don't worry about the doctor's Pee.
Huh!?
Now that I've taken the job, I'll do everything in my power,
and I swear I will heal him!!
In fact, I should even be paying you...
Well, I should say, I have interest in healing his eyes as a doctor.

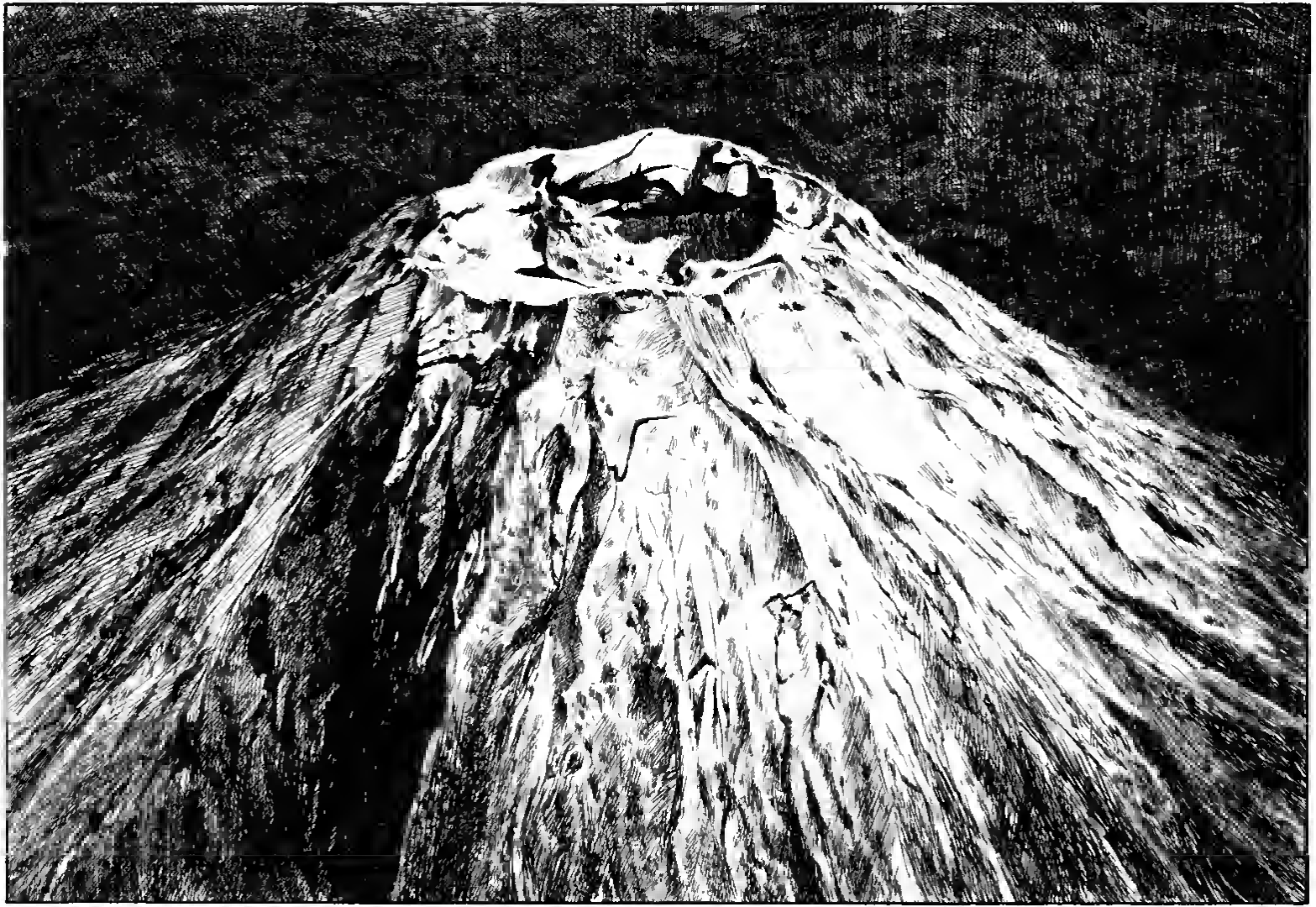
This will take about half an hour, so just wait for me
He's great!!
They always call medicine a benevolent act...
But this doctor is a true doctor!!

Hey, Sabu!
!?
Oh, these are some fine carp here.
What were you doing out here?
It's a success!!
Well, Doctor?
I put him to sleep.
Ichi!!
It's done.

So please, be careful!
He'll be blind forever... beyond hope of healing...
Light!? Then... what if light hits his eyes before then...?
He will see again!!
If no light hits his eyes for twenty days... he'll be able to see again!!
I'm . happy, too.
I'm so grateful... Once Ichi wakes up and hears of it...
I'm sure he'll be so happy.
T-Thank you so much, Doctor!!
I'll do it!!
I... just needed one patient to begin with!!
If... this goes well... I can make half of the blind in Edo see!!
Now I'm confident!!
Yes, I'll do it!!
I'll do it!!
Does it hurt?
?
Huh? Ichi!?
Mm-Mgh...


It's...
I...!!
It's cold!!
Ah!!
Ice!?
..This undoubtedly belonged to Kashiwaki's daughter!!



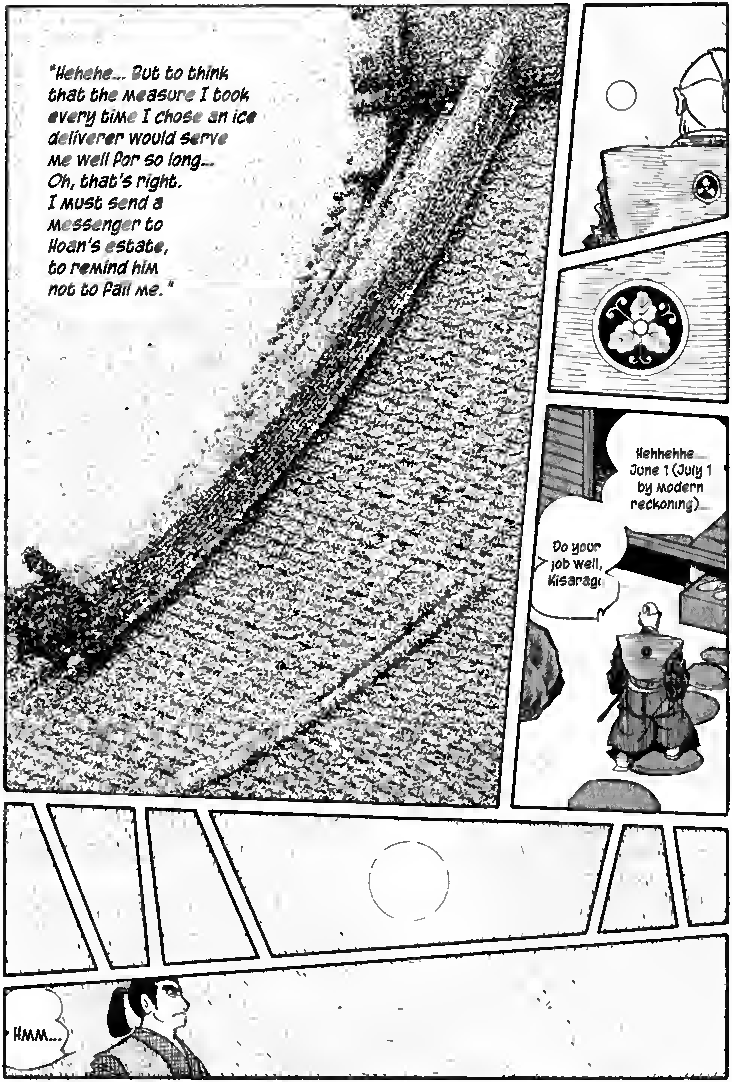


Heh hehe...
Hey!
Looks like this year's ice-delivery is gonna be tough.
It's gonna be hot!!
The sun's rising!
It's a hopeless task, anyway
That ice can melt all it needs to

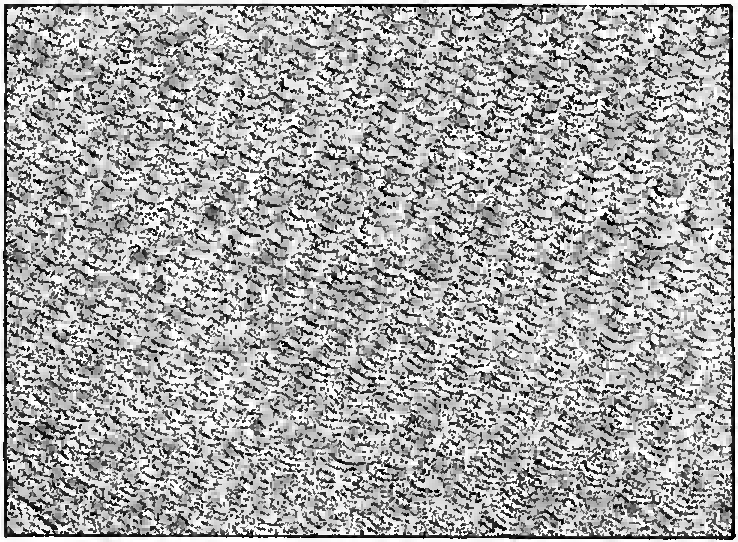
Kisaragi: "I already have the ice to present to the Shogun waiting in Edo. A thousand-ryo chunk of ice!!

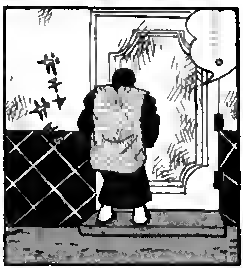
But that was by no means an expensive purchase. In fact, it's cheap, with the future in mind! Hehehe...

But still, the Minister runs quite a good business. A thousand ryo every year selling ice to the deliverer... That's nothing to be sneezed at .."


"Hehehe... But to think that the measure I took every time I chose an ice deliverer would serve me well for so long... Oh, that's right. I must send a messenger to Hoan's estate, to remind him not to fail me."
Hehhehhe... June 1 (July 1 by modern reckoning)...
Do your job well, Kisarag
Hmm...

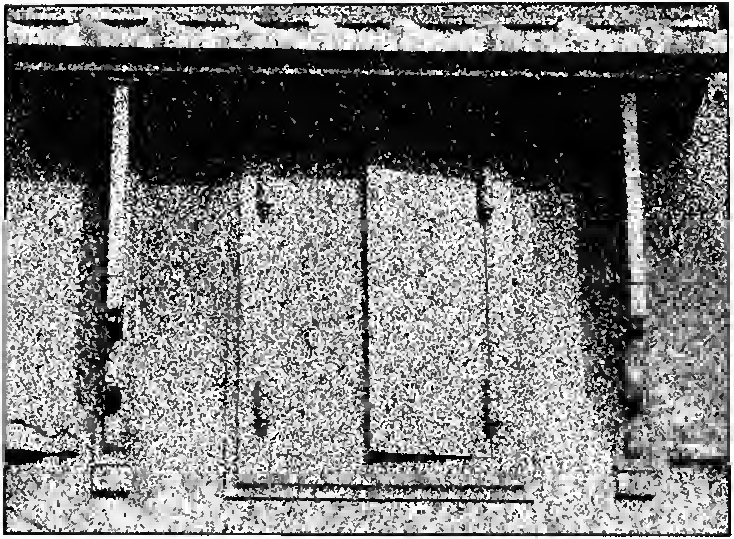
Hoan: "The ice offering!? Heheh... How preposterous and pointless!! However many people risk their necks to bring that block of ice, the Shogun will crunch it all down in one sitting. And they say the Shogun... will be healthy all year!? Ridiculous!! I don't know who thought that up, but they have no idea of how the human body works!!"

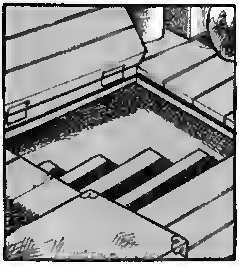




Hoan: "Still... The Minister has become rich and I became a doctor all thanks to that absurd ceremony... so I should show more respect to it!!

"It's been over ten years ago... since the Minister created the room of ice and appointed me as its guardian. It was a boring job... So I had plenty of time to study medicine. And thanks to the room of ice, I could do research that other doctors couldn't...!!"



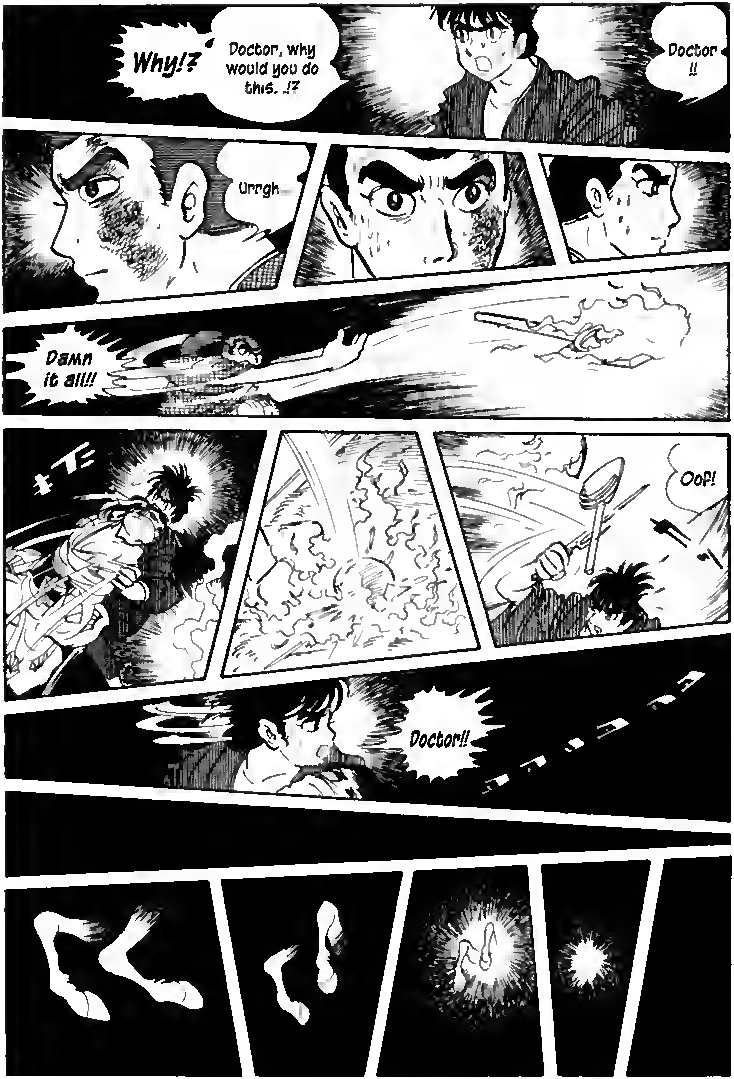


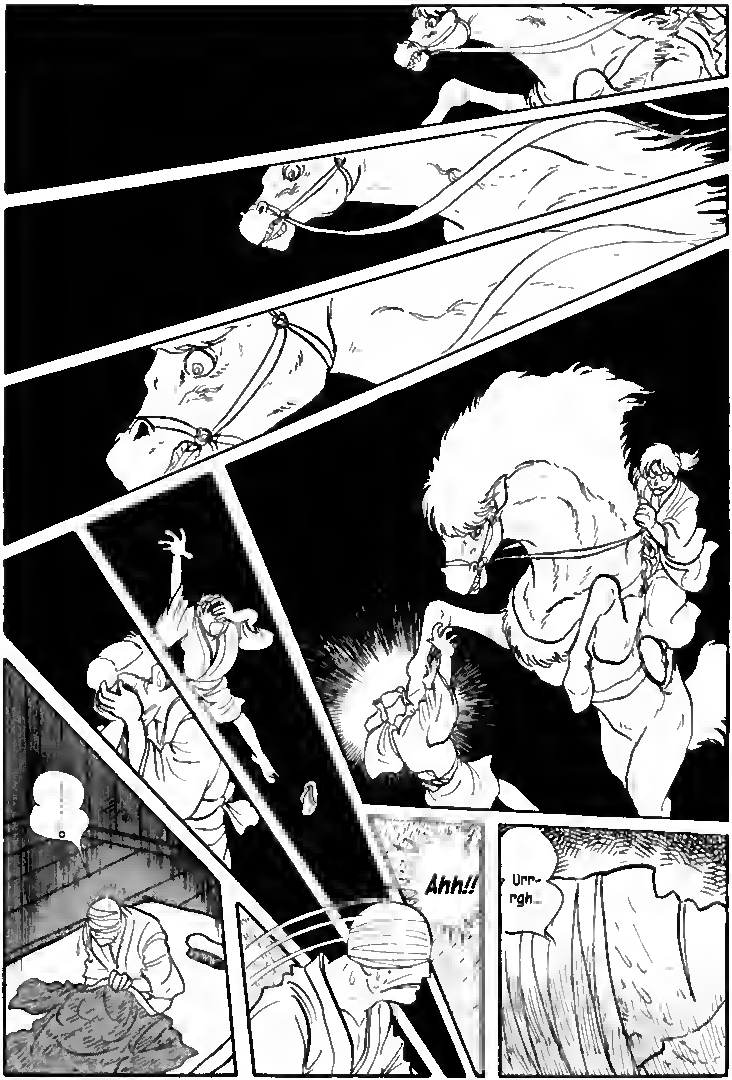
Lady Yae, do you still refuse to sleep with me?
Hehe he...
But I am a promising man who will eventually become the Shogun's personal doctor...
But... You wouldn't even give me the time of day!
Every time I went to buy medicine from your store, the feeling grew stronger
Hehhe... I have fallen for you

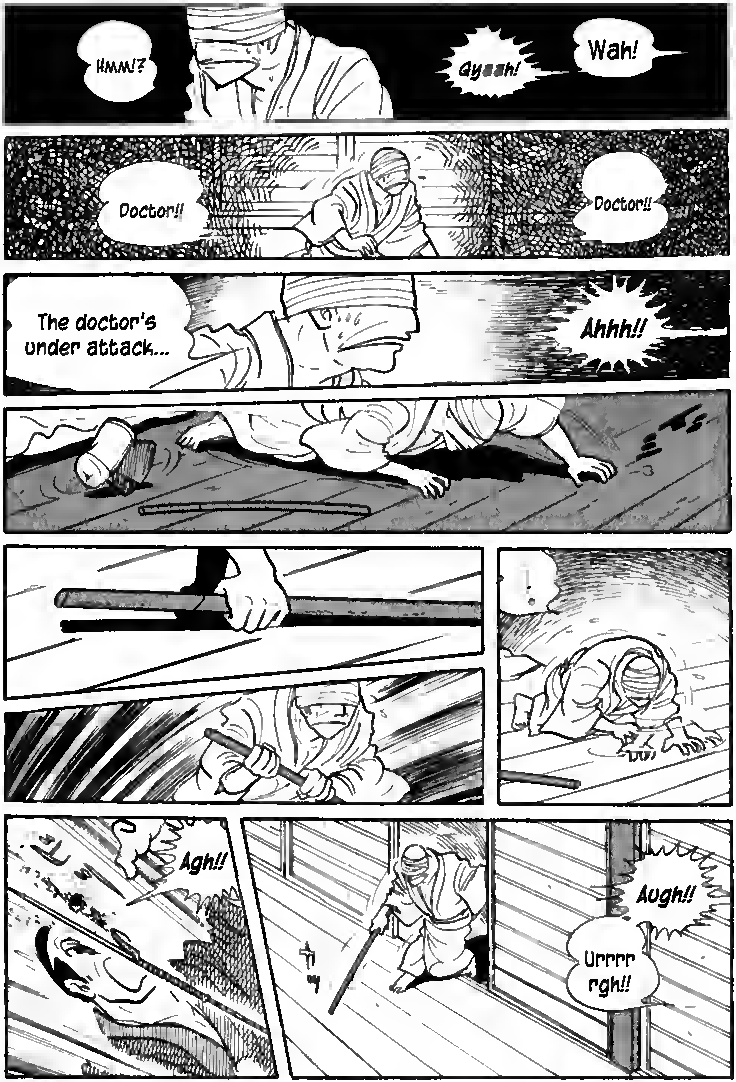
Not only that, but your face was always blatantly unpleasant.
That's why...
That's why I had no choice but to do this!
Hehe...
You're a strong-willed woman, I'll give you that.
I'll show you something nice.
Now, stand!!
on staying so stubborn...
If you keep on insisting
I'll show you what you'll become...

Ahhh!!
Get in there!!
Hehehe-haha-haha...
This is the room of ice, made by the Minister.
I have been studying the anatomy of men's and women's bodies in here,
Corpses do not rot inside here
making delicate cuts and opening them up
They're all...
the bodies of women who dared laugh at my face!

Ahahaha!
Wahahaha!
Heh
he
D...
Doctor
!!
W-W-What
are you
doing here...?
Huhz
W-Who's
there!?
Y-You're
...!?
I've been...
Following you
this whole
time.
...Ever since I
found that girl's
hairpin in your
garden!
Doctor!!
Are you
really...
the doctor
I knew!?

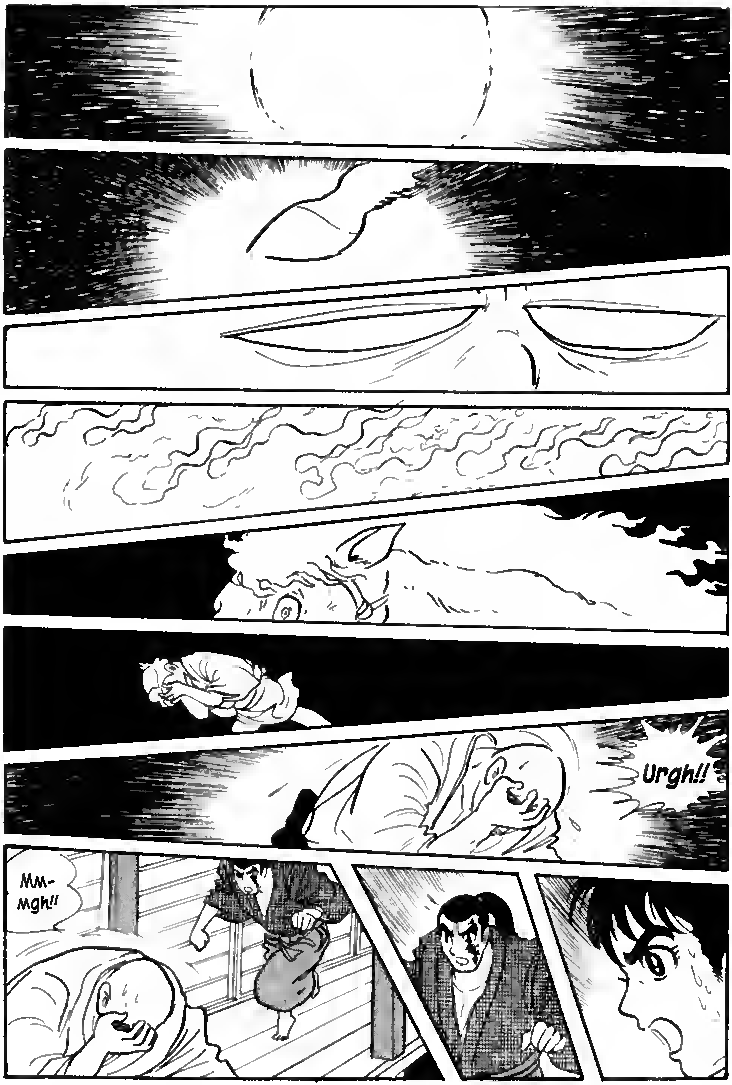

Why!?
Doctor, why would you do this. !?
Doctor !!
Urrgh
Damn it all!!!
Oof!
Doctor!!

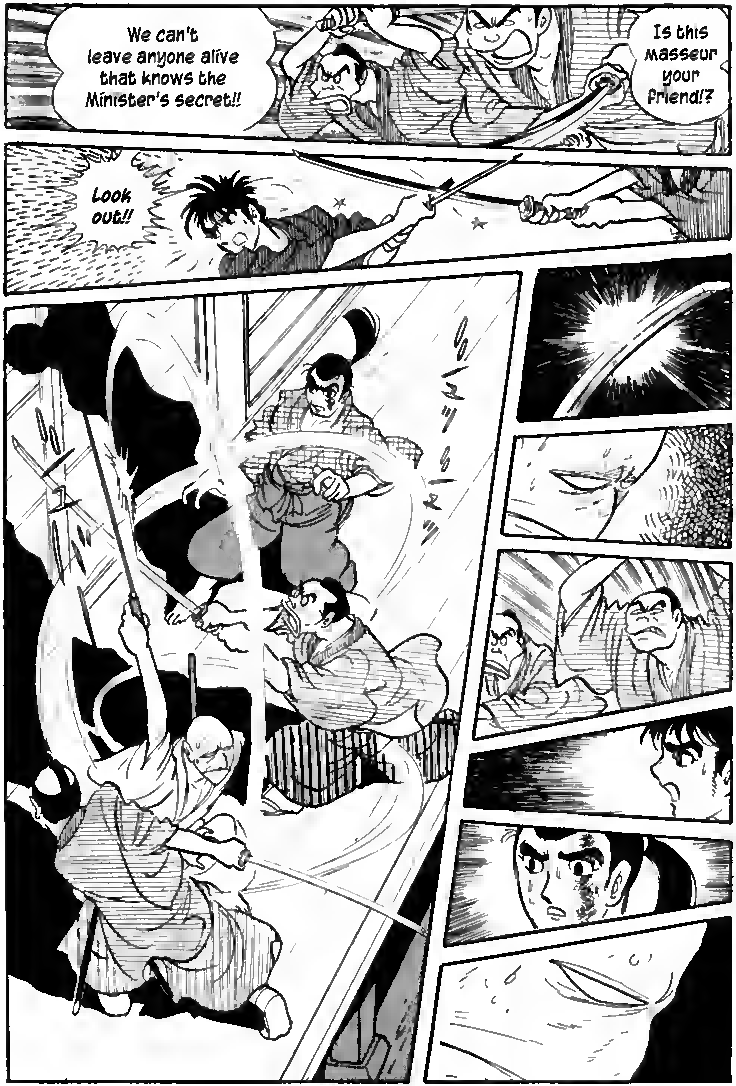

Ahh!!
Urrr-
rgh...

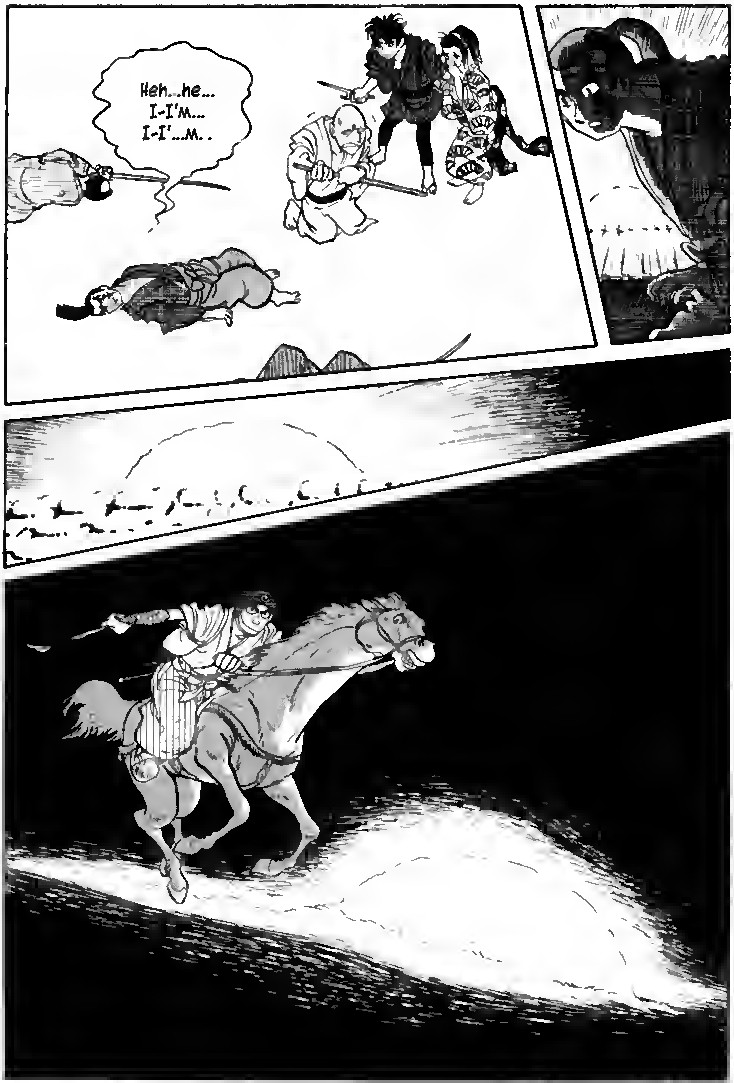

Hmm!?
Dyaah!
Wah!
Doctor!!
Doctor!!
The doctor's under attack...
Ahhh!!
!
Agh!!
Augh!!
Urrrr rgh!!

HMM!?
Fire!!
The storehouse... The room of ice is burning!!
It's burning because of the candlestick you threw!!

Heh.. he...
Hehe... Haha! Ahahaha!
Haha haha!
Hmm... That's strange!
My senses are being thrown off!!
I-I know!!
I-It's the bandages!
These bandages have been on my nerves..
Ah!!
Ichi!!
Sabu!?
No, Ichi!! Don't take them off!!


Urgh!!
Mm-mgh!!

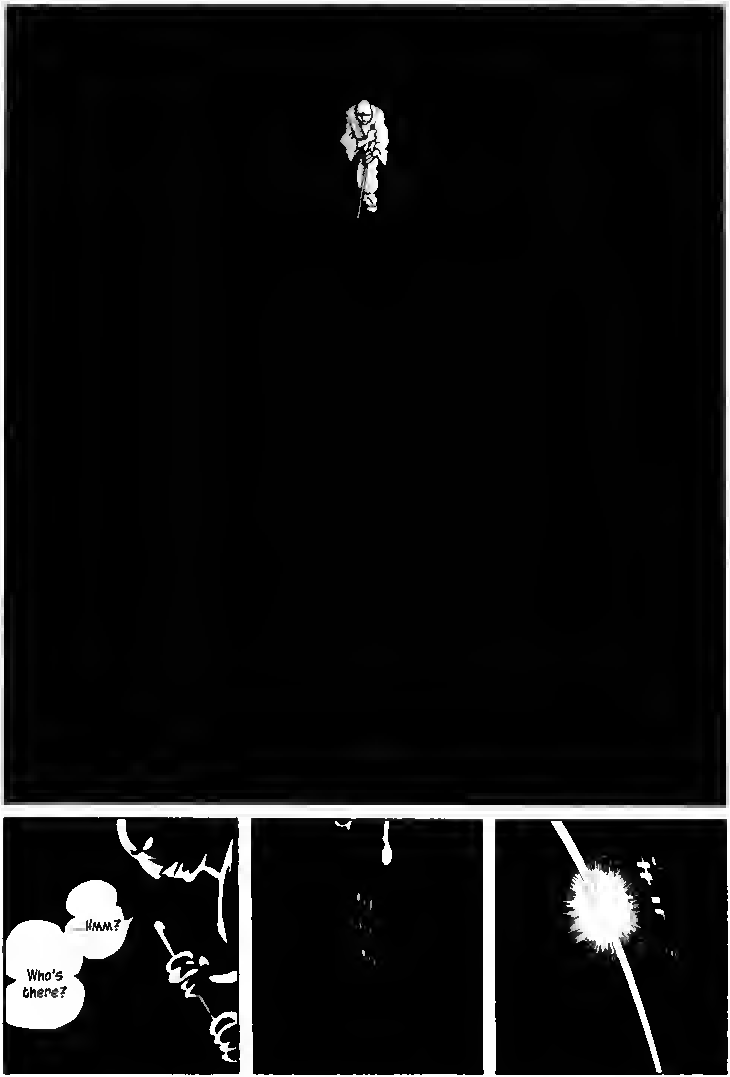

We can't leave anyone alive that knows the Minister's secret!!
Is this masseur your friend!?
Look out!!



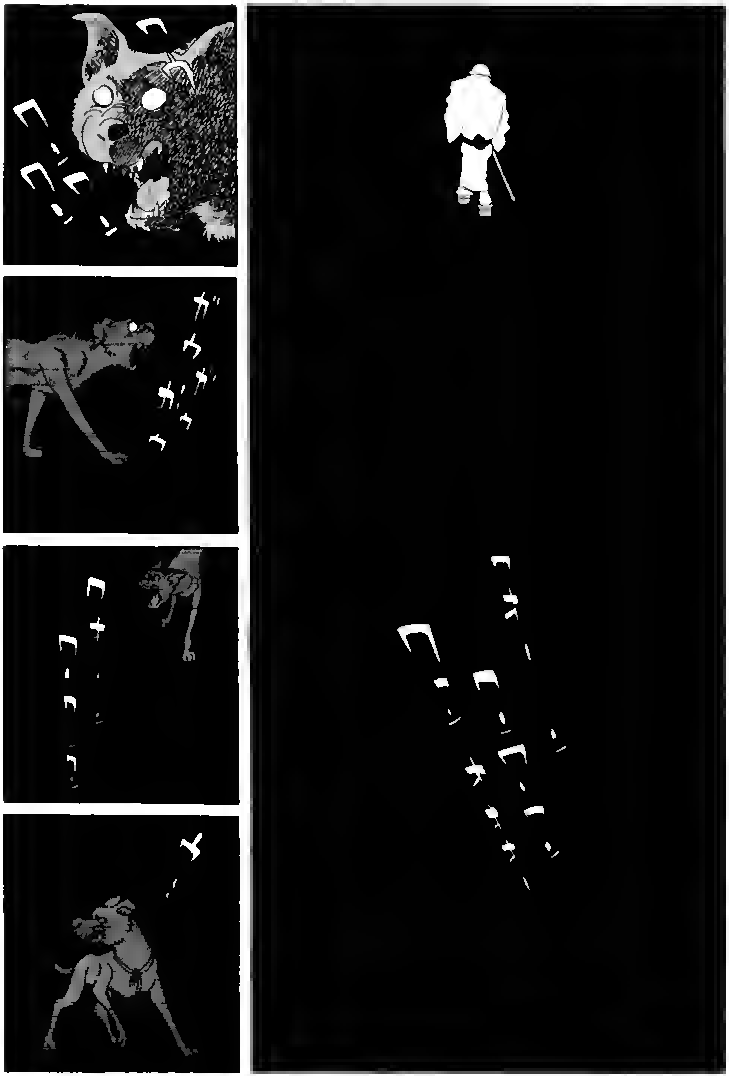

June 1968. "First Day of Ice" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 37
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND
HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE
BY TROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHÔTARÔ

# Chapter 38: To Kill


Hmm?
Who's there?

I-I am the masseur...
Huh?
Were you aware of that, hoodlum?
Matsu-no-Ichi...
Tch!



I'm used to being shaken from sleep.
Don't worry.
For waking you up while you were sleeping...
...I'm very sorry, Sabu.

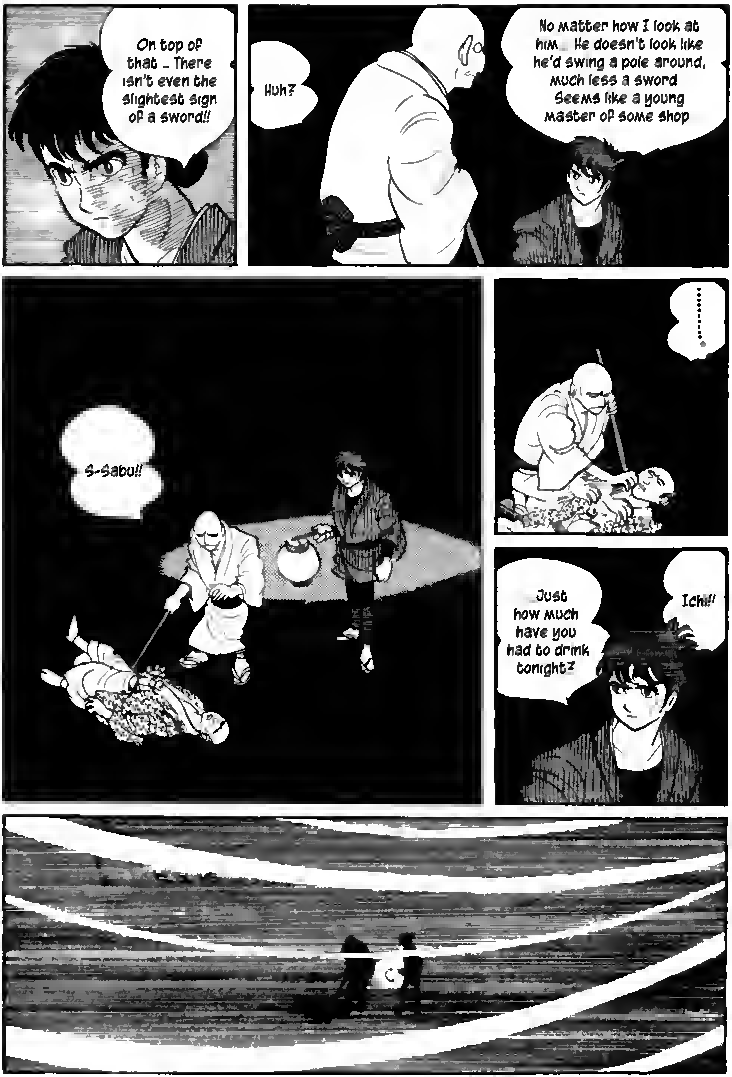
Sorry
It's bad for you if you keep drinking this late!!
But Ichi,
You shouldn't be drinking so much

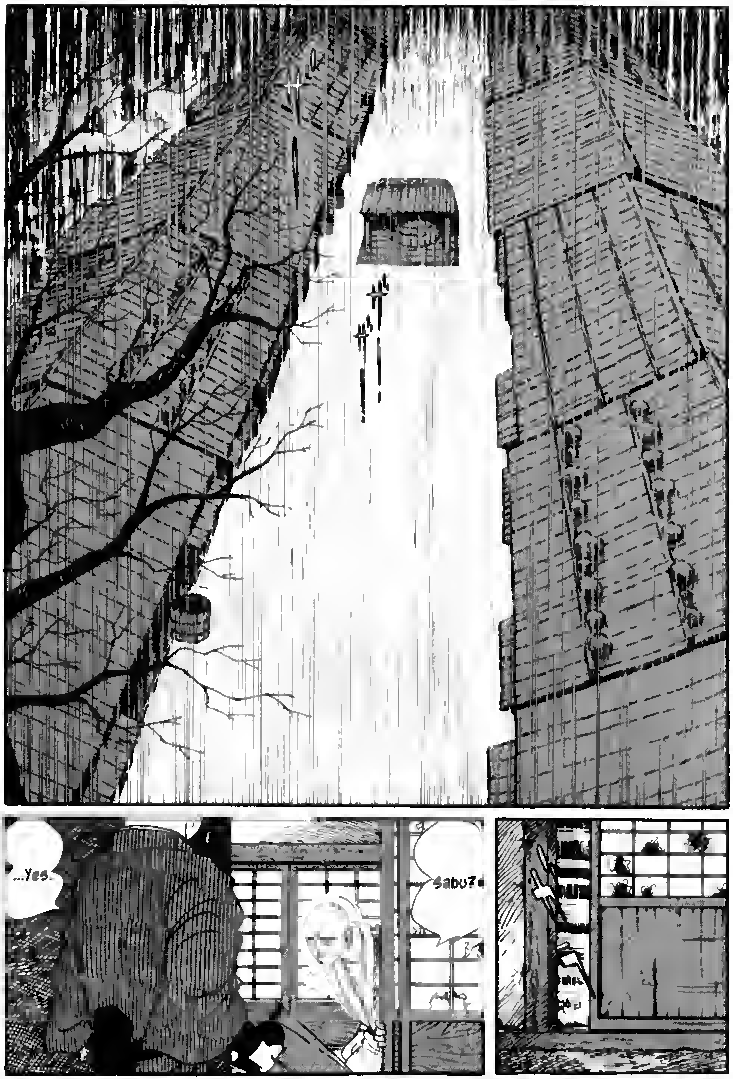
There he is!!

Y-Yes.
I can smell his blood.
...No doubt about it.
...So was it about here that you killed that man...?

.....

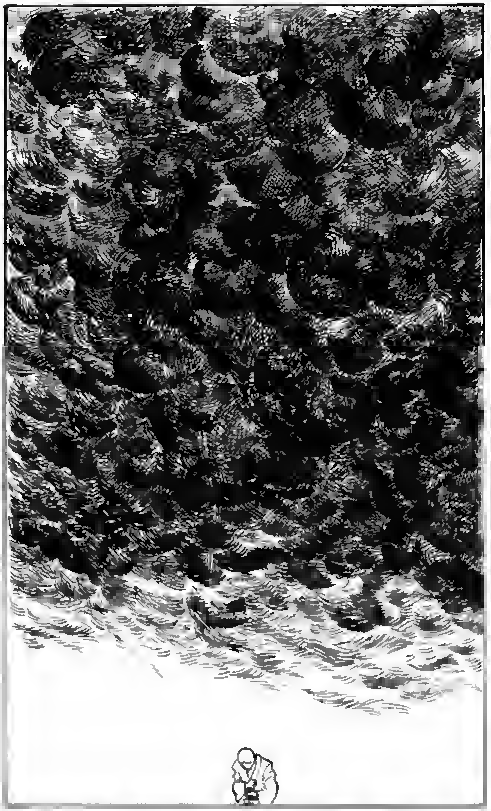
Sabu... do you recognize that samurai?
this man wasn't a samurai!!
...Ichi,
ゴロ!
Sabu?
But the point of his sword was quite sharp... so I was certain... that he must have been a ronin with a grudge against me...
R-Really?
Huh?
.....
Sabu... what do you mean?
Just what... kind of man is he?
swinging around his sword wildly ready to kill you?
Ichi, was he really...

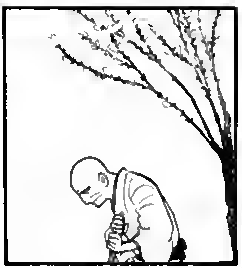

On top of that - There isn't even the slightest sign of a sword!!
Huh?
No matter how I look at him... He doesn't look like he'd swing a pole around, much less a sword Seems like a young master of some shop
S-Sabu!!
.....
Just how much have you had to drink tonight?
Ichi!!

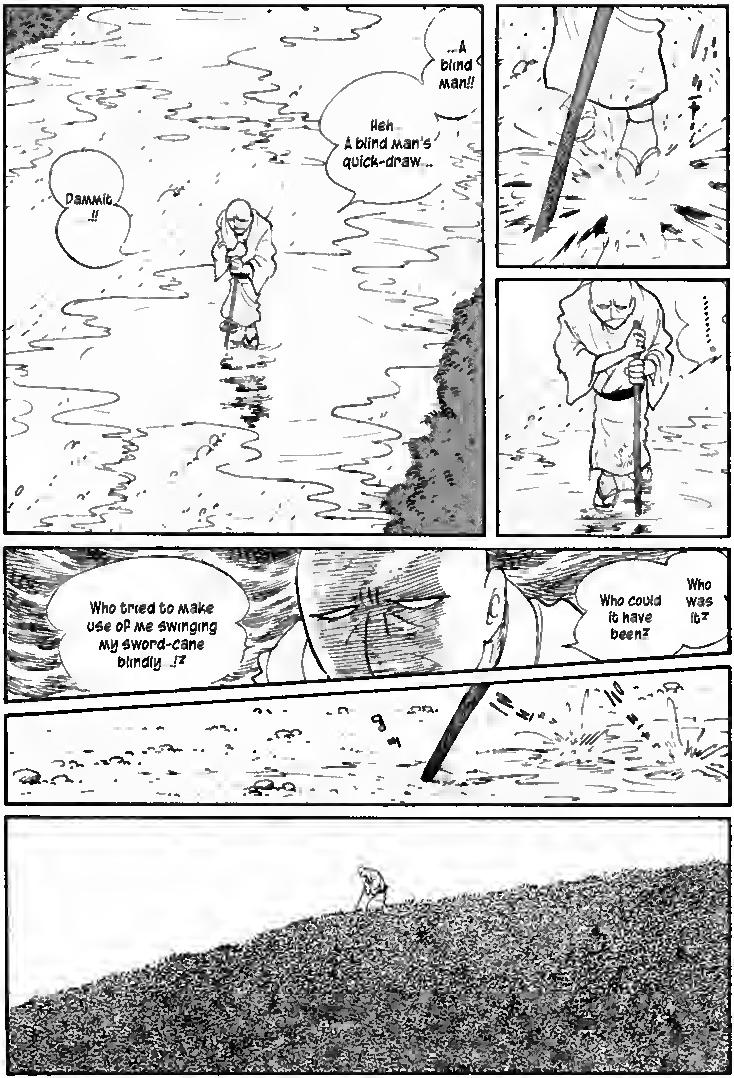

...Yes.
Sabu?

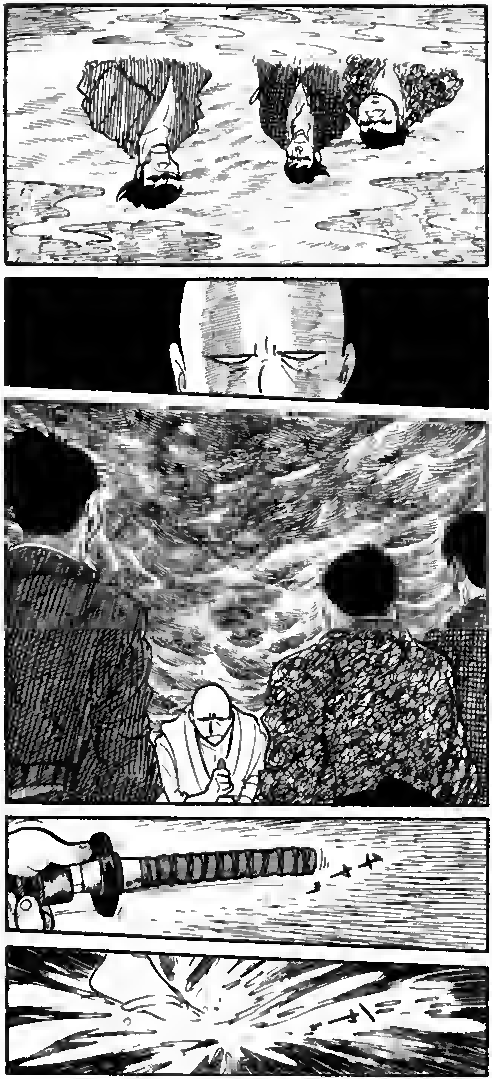
Ichi,
...tha man... was the only son of a merchant of a large store named Shotoken.
Sabu,
D-Did you... find anything?
Shotokan?
He was gentle... and he was quite a looker, too. In fact, he was often hunted by the girls in the neighborhood...
The father wasn't very well-reputed, but the son... the late Mitsuroku was very well-reputed, quite the opposite of his father.
His father's name is Iwashiroya Rokube... the son's name was Mitsuroku, and he had no mother.
They sell southern-made tea leaves on the Fukagawa...
He... Mitsuroku wasn't... the one I killed!!
S-Stop it!!
Sabu!!
T...That's why Rokube held Mitsuroku dear, as the apple of his eye...

Somebody must have switched the corpses to frame me!!
...
However drunk I was... and however blind I am!! That much I'm sure about!
I'm most certain... that he was a talented swordsman.
I talked with Mr. Tanabe about the possibility the corpses were switched, and they're investigating that angle...
I'm not trying to be sarcastic with you...
Ichi,
...
...
"I'll kill him myself..."
and he's been going around shouting "If the Shogun doesn't kill that masseur...
is that Rokube is seeming to go mad...
But... What I wanted to tell you...

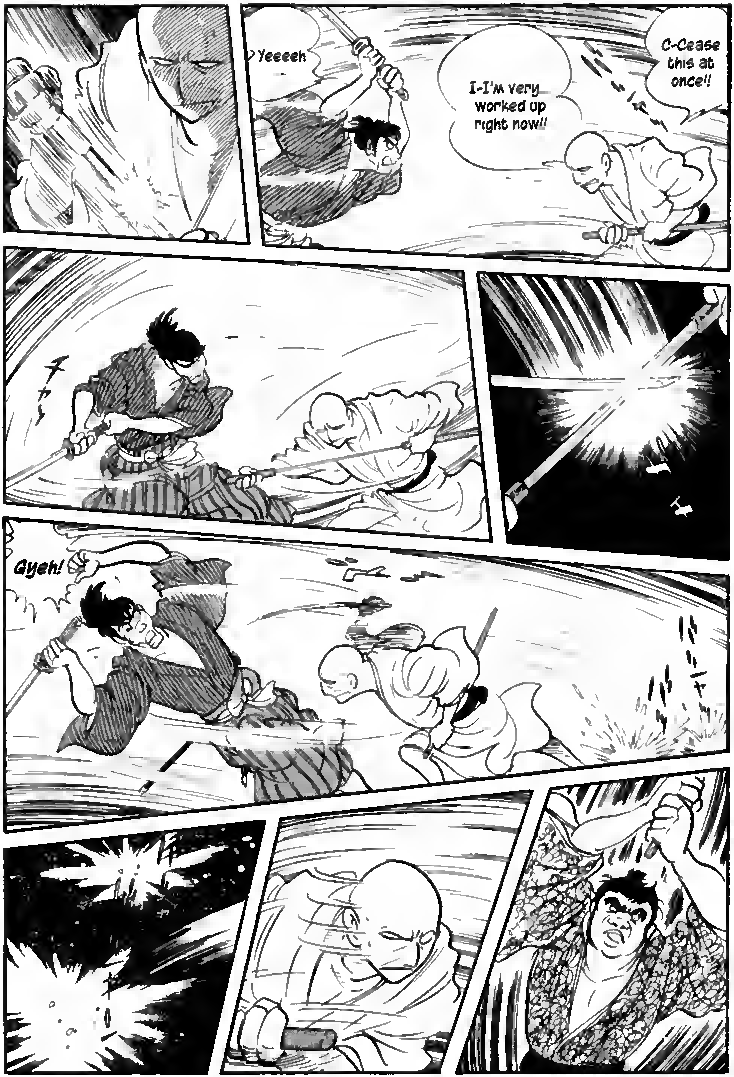


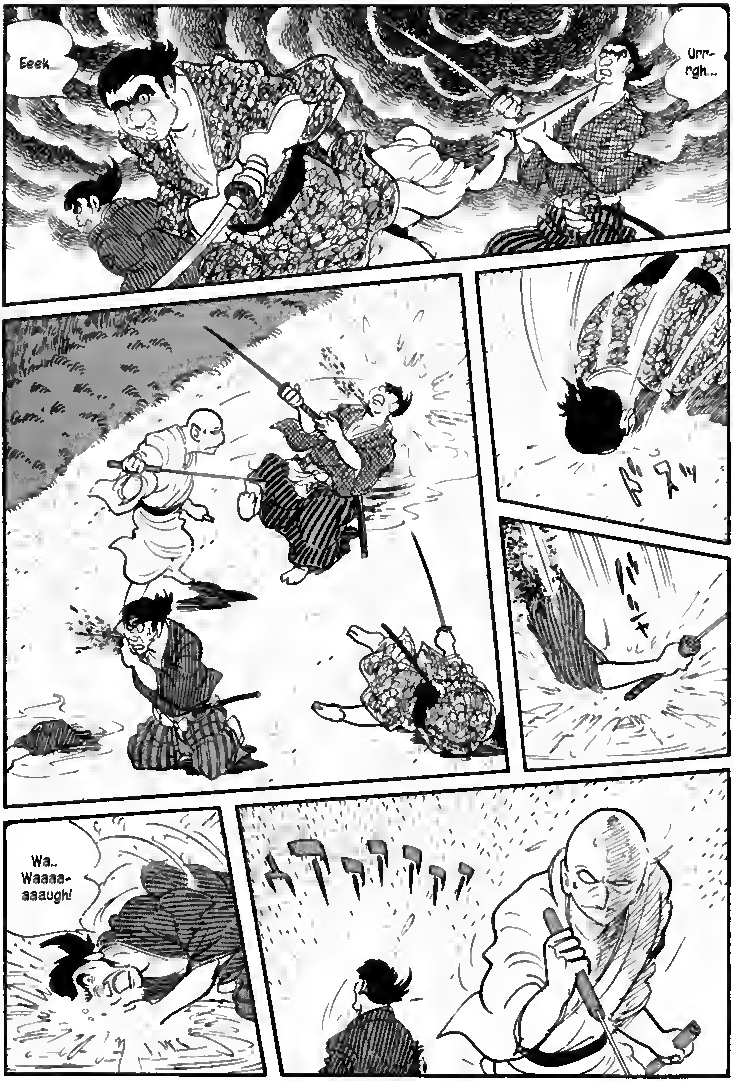


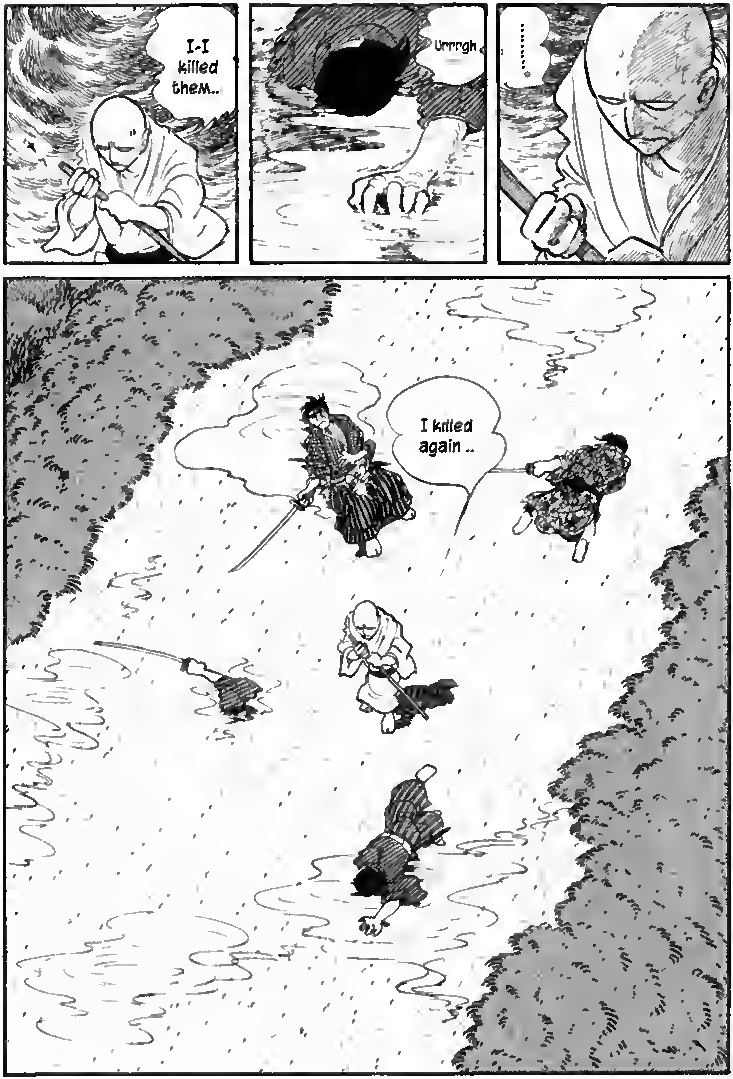

...A blind man!!
Heh... A blind man's quick-draw...
Dammit...!!
Who tried to make use of me swinging my sword-cane blindly...?
Who could it have been?
Who was it?

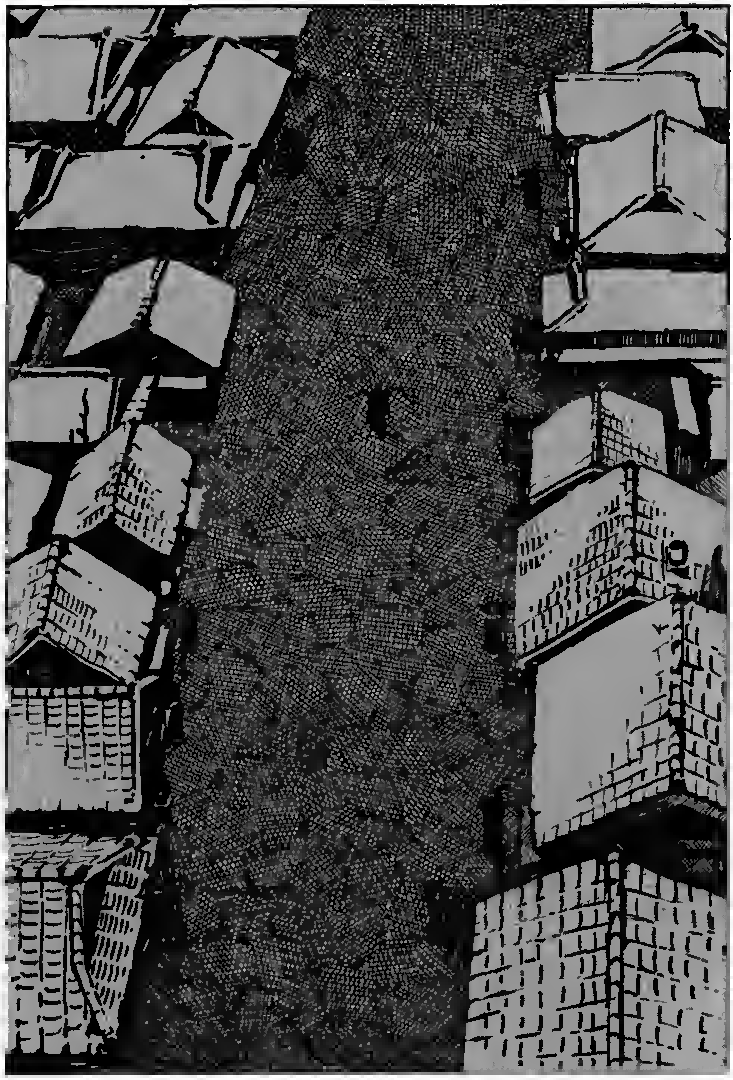


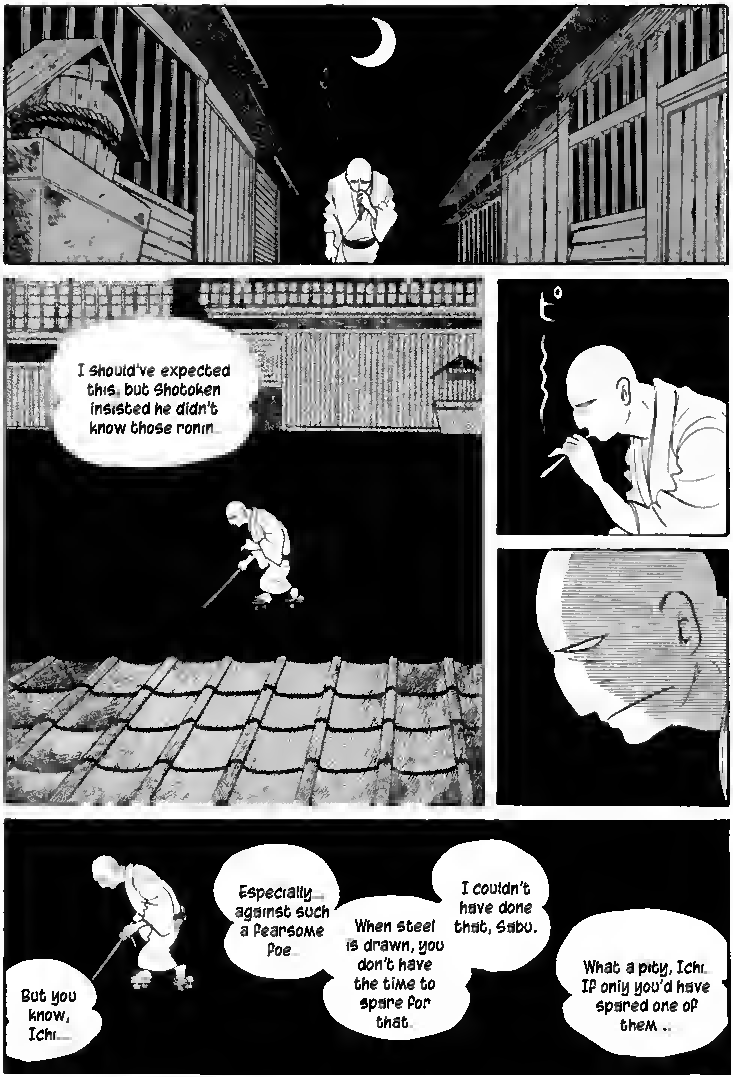
Shyeh!
Urgh!
Did the master of Shoto-ken ..
put you up to this?

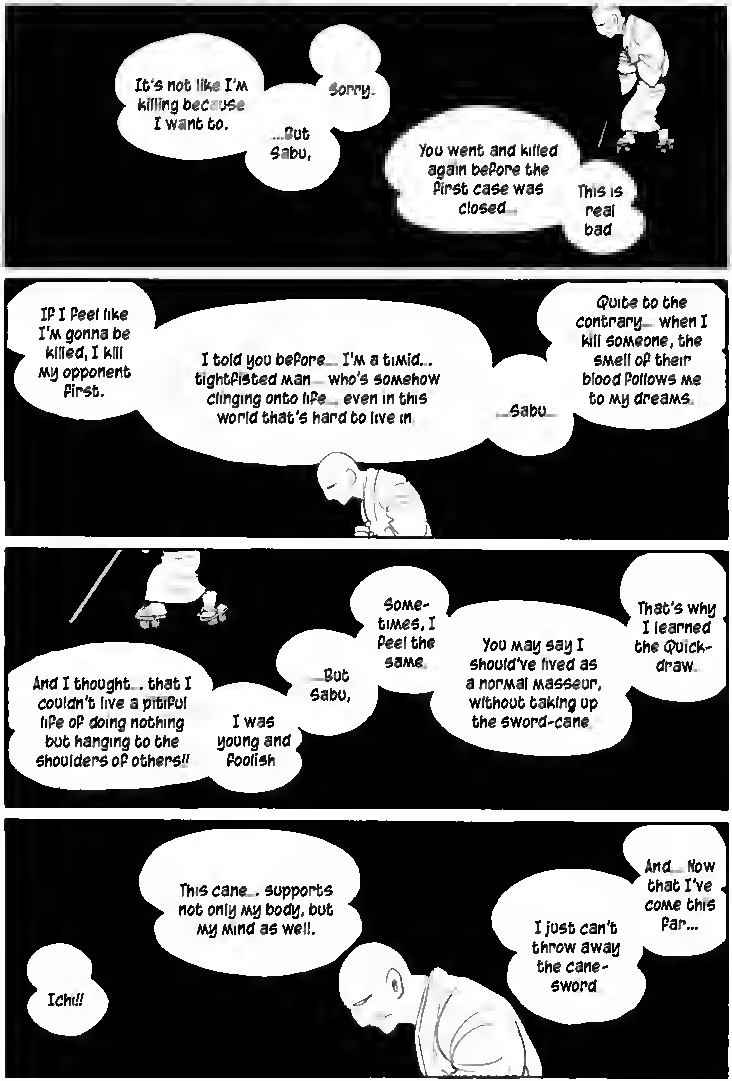

Yeeeeh
I-I'm very worked up right now!!
C-Cease this at once!!
Gyeh!


Eeek
Urrr-rgh...
Wa..
Waaaaa-aaaugh!

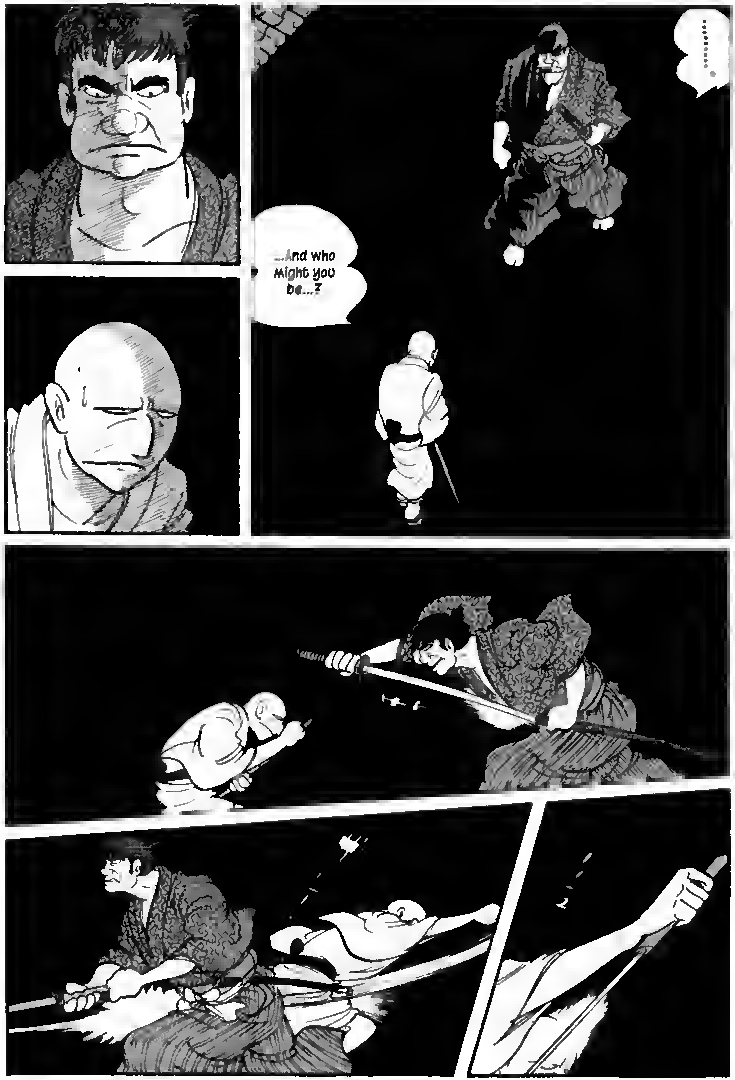

I-I killed them..
Urrrgh
.....
I killed again ..

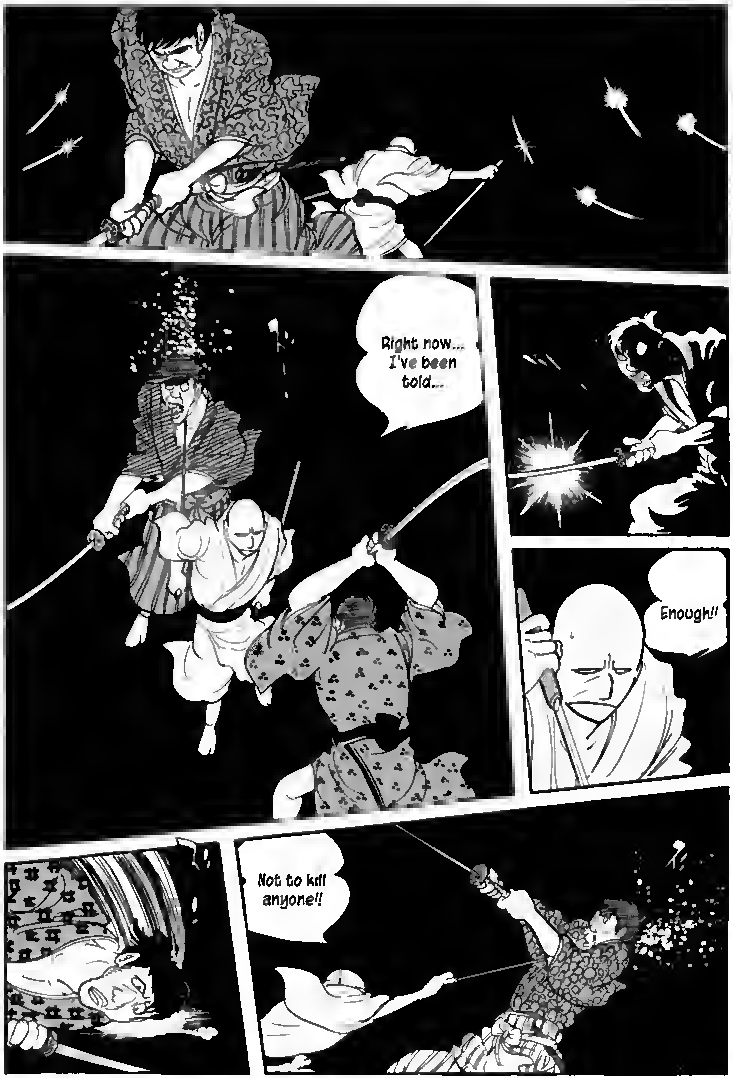


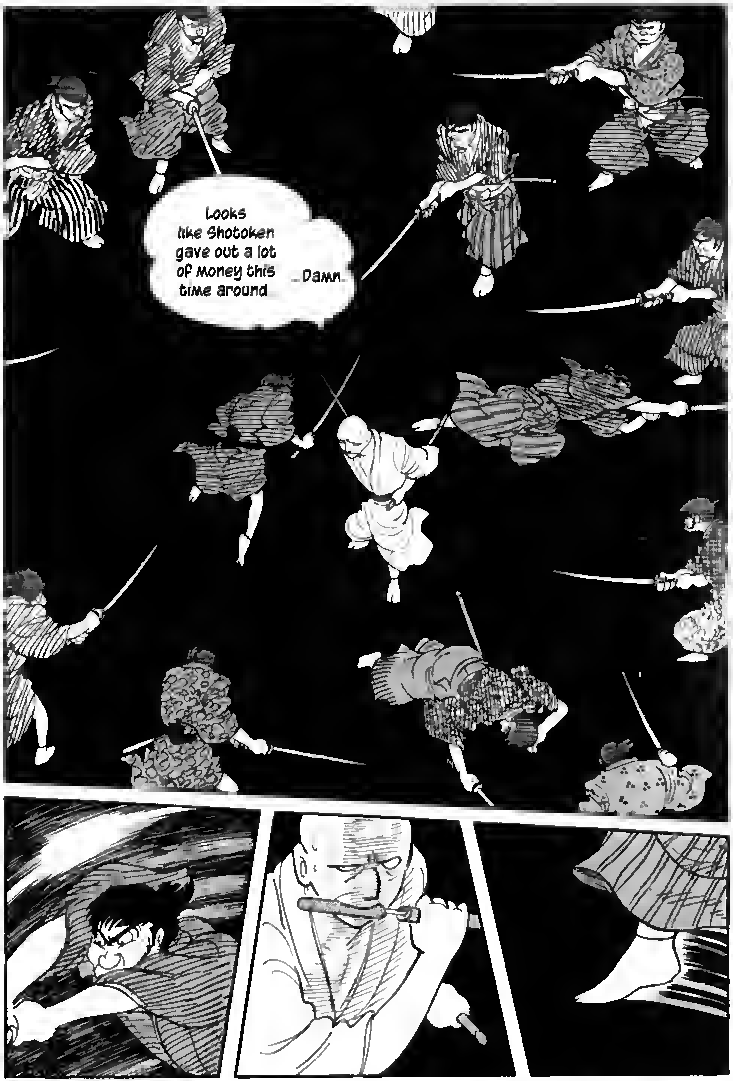

I should've expected this, but Shobokan insisted he didn't know those ronin.
But you know, Ichi...
Especially against such a fearsome foe.
When steel is drawn, you don't have the time to spare for that.
I couldn't have done that, Sabu.
What a pity, Ichi. If only you'd have spared one of them...

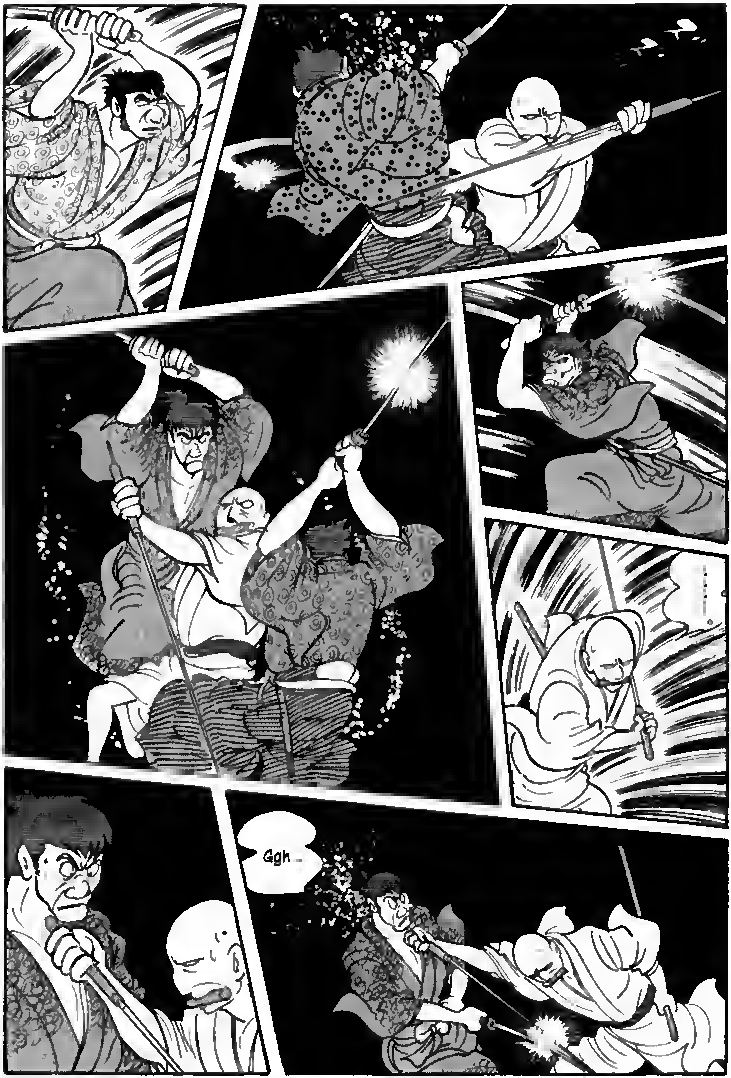

It's not like I'm killing because I want to.
Sorry.
...But Sabu,
You went and killed again before the first case was closed...
This is real bad
If I feel like I'm gonna be killed, I kill my opponent first.
I told you before... I'm a timid... tightfisted man... who's somehow clinging onto life... even in this world that's hard to live in.
...Sabu...
Quite to the contrary... when I kill someone, the smell of their blood follows me to my dreams.
And I thought... that I couldn't live a pitiful life of doing nothing but hanging to the shoulders of others!!
I was young and foolish
...But Sabu,
Sometimes, I feel the same.
You may say I should've lived as a normal masseur, without taking up the sword-cane.
That's why I learned the Quick-draw.
Ichi!!
This cane... supports not only my body, but my mind as well.
I just can't throw away the cane-sword.
And... Now that I've come this far...

For now ... Don't go outside.
Don't go in and out of places where they might target you.
Hehehe... Well, if I do that, I won't have anything to eat.
I'll get Midori to bring you food for the next while...
I can't afford to do that
Sabu
Mas-seur!!
Y-Yes. ... At your service...


.....
...And who might you be...?

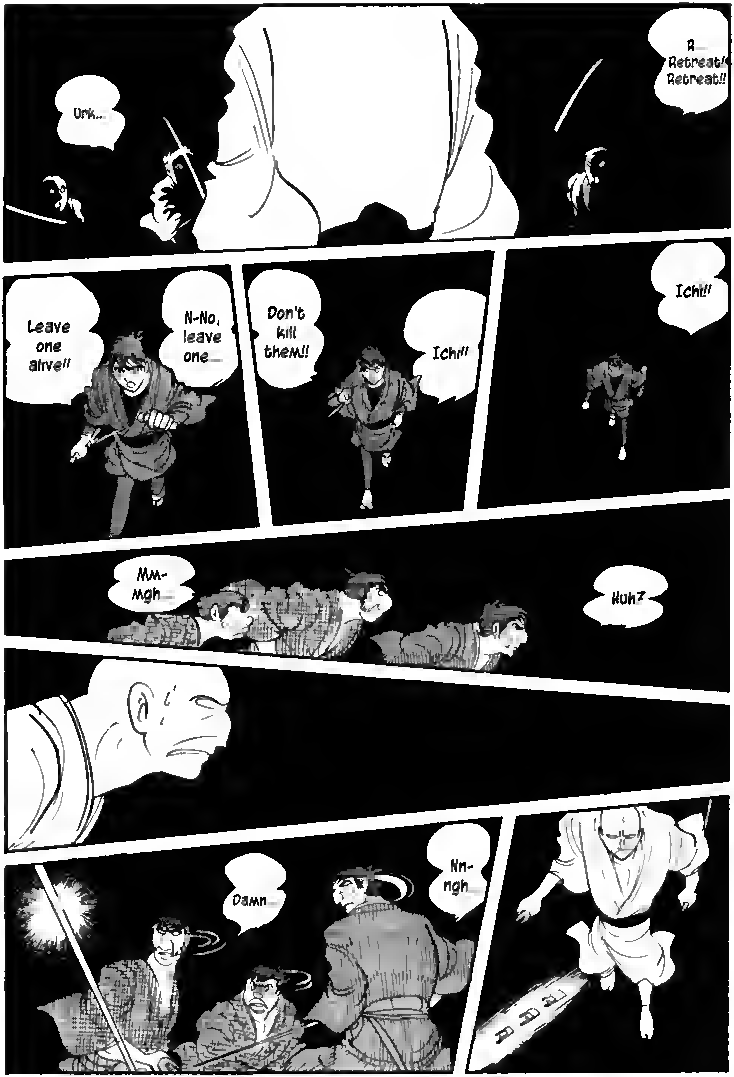

Right now... I've been told...
Enough!!
Not to kill anyone!!

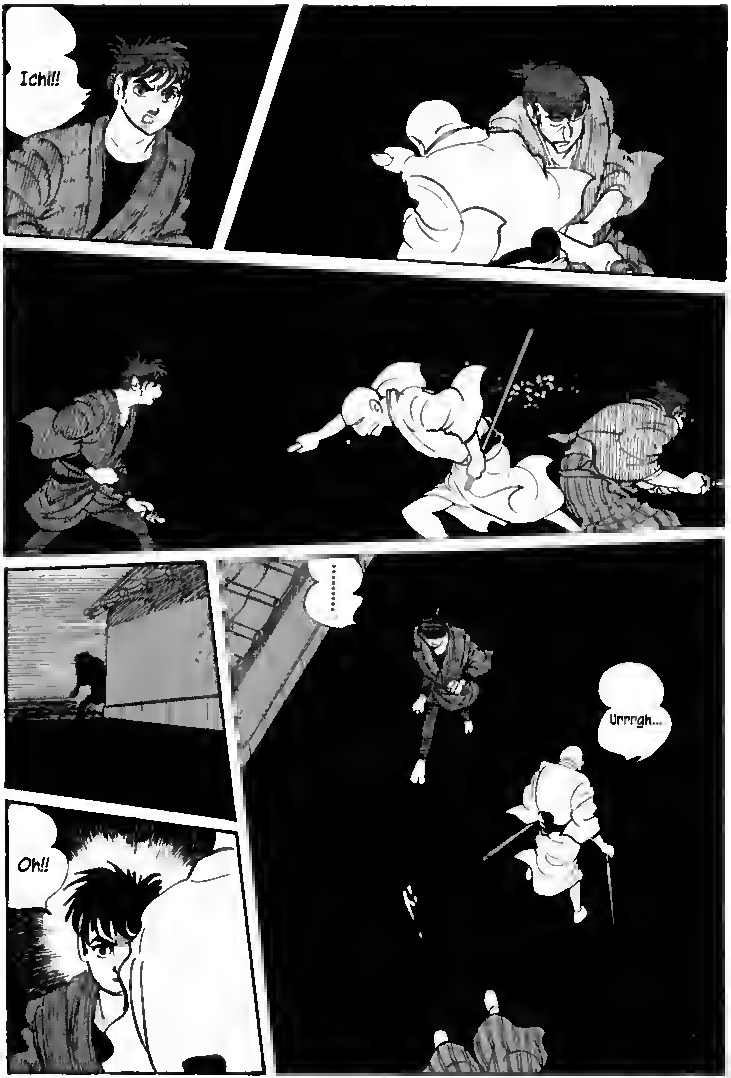

Looks like Shotoken gave out a lot of money this time around
...Damn


Ggh…

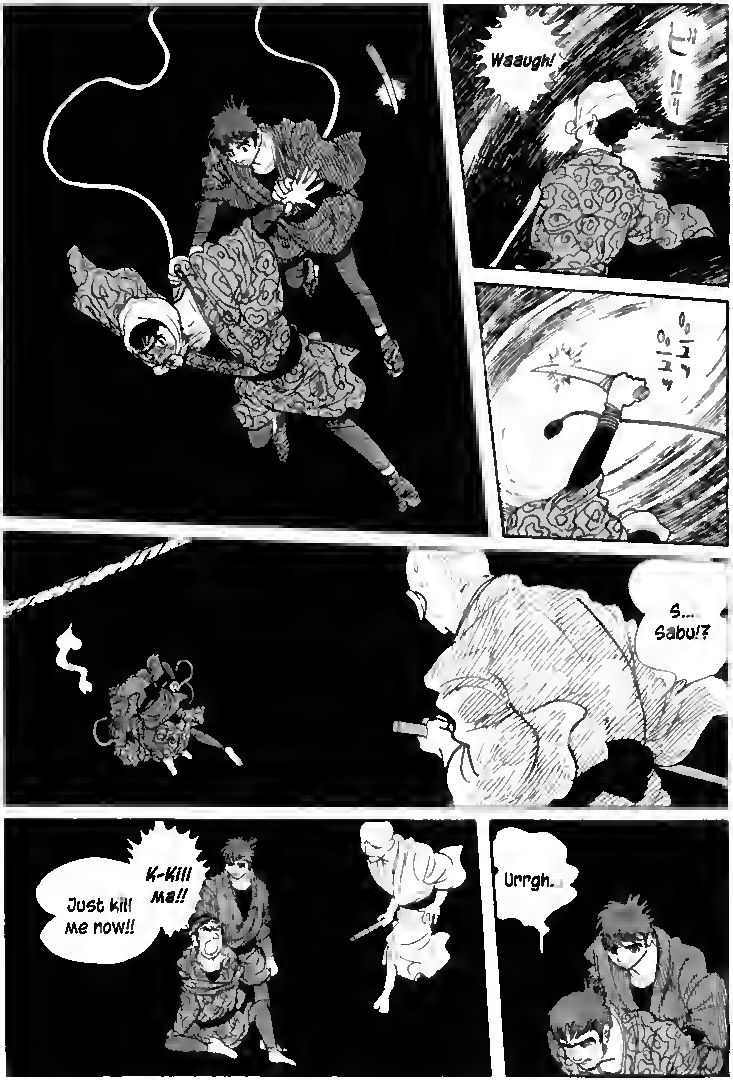
Gaugh!
ビュッ
Urgh!

Gyah!
Hupp, hupp, hupp...
Hupp, hupp...


Urk...
R... Retreat! Retreat!!
Leave one alive!!
N-No, leave one...
Don't kill them!!
Ichi!!
Ichi!!
Mm-mgh...
Huh?
Damn
Nn-ngh


Ichi!!
.....
Urrrgh...
Oh!!

Hold it!!


Waaugh!
S... Sabu!?
K-Kill Me!!
Just kill Me now!!
Urrgh...

Sabu: "...He was just a footpad who was caught three years ago after you sliced off one of his arms. 'Tatsu the Flying Squirrel'... Ring any bells? Everything that's happened lately was part of this Tatsu's plan.

"Tatsu first ambushed and killed Mitsuroku of Shotoken as he was walking home at night, carried his corpse, and hired a ronin to attack you...

"Naturally, the ronin carried out a surprise attack knowing you would kill him.

"And while you were running to my place after killing the ronin, Tatsu replaced the corpse of the ronin with Mitsuroku's. It was no trouble at all.

"Ichi killed Shotoken's son...

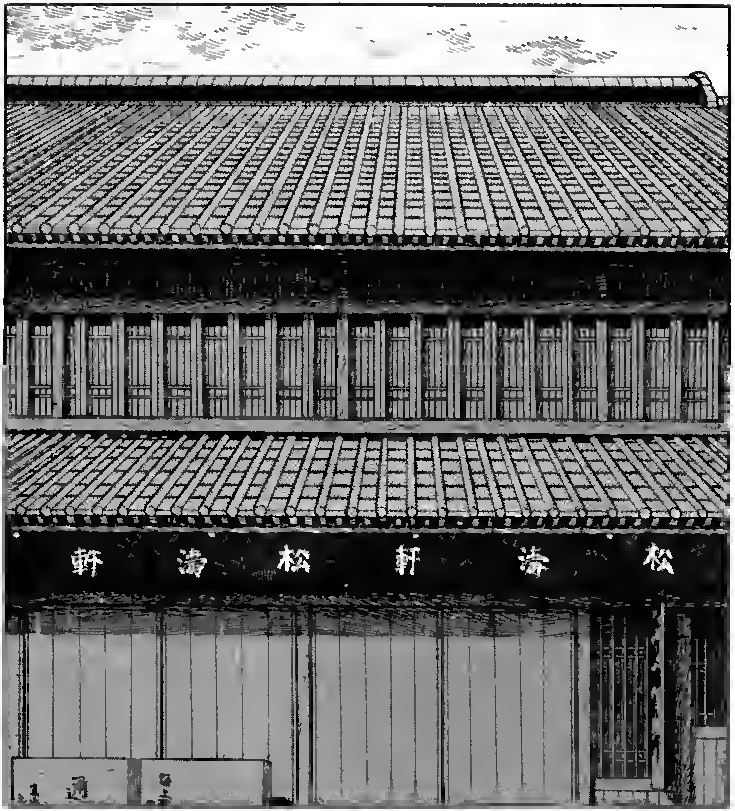
"Having set it up to look like this, Tatsu snuck into Shotoken's shop, who by now was mad with grief and rage.

"And so Tatsu told Rokube of Shotoken: 'Gather up as many skilled ronin as you can and kill that masseur! I have a grudge against him myself... so I'll arrange all the ronin myself!!'

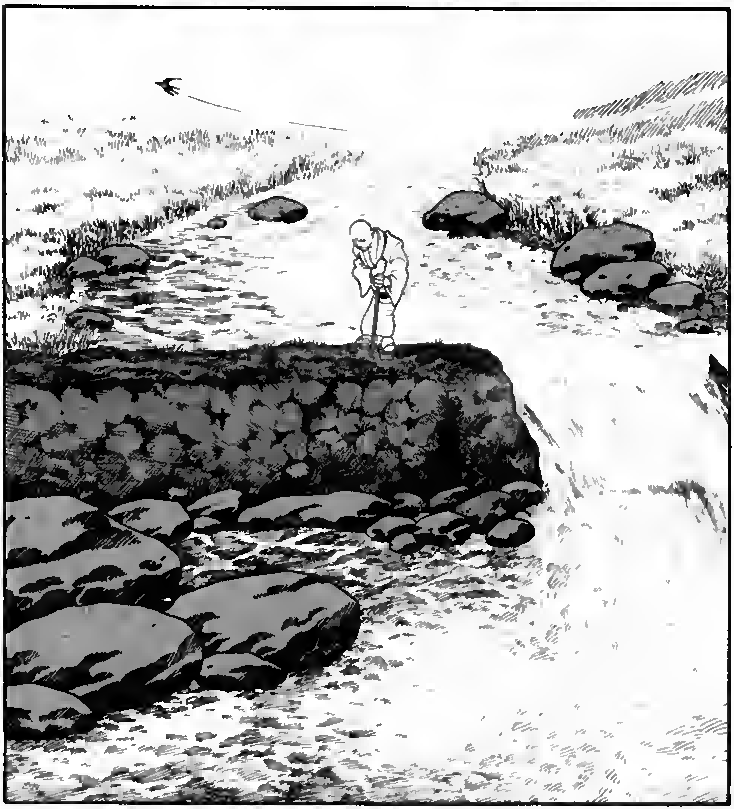
"...Tatsu the Flying Squirrel became a thief in the first place because when he was a child, his home was stolen by the Rokube of Shotoken and his parents hung themselves.

"Tatsu wanted to avenge both Rokube for killing his parents and you for taking his arm at once. Two birds with one stone.

"...But I'd say you've had your revenge already. You made Ichi suffer... And Rokube of Shotoken has gone mad thanks to you... Especially since Rokube may have been a demon when it came to business, he treated his son with as much love as any father... if not more!"


松涛軒
松涛軒

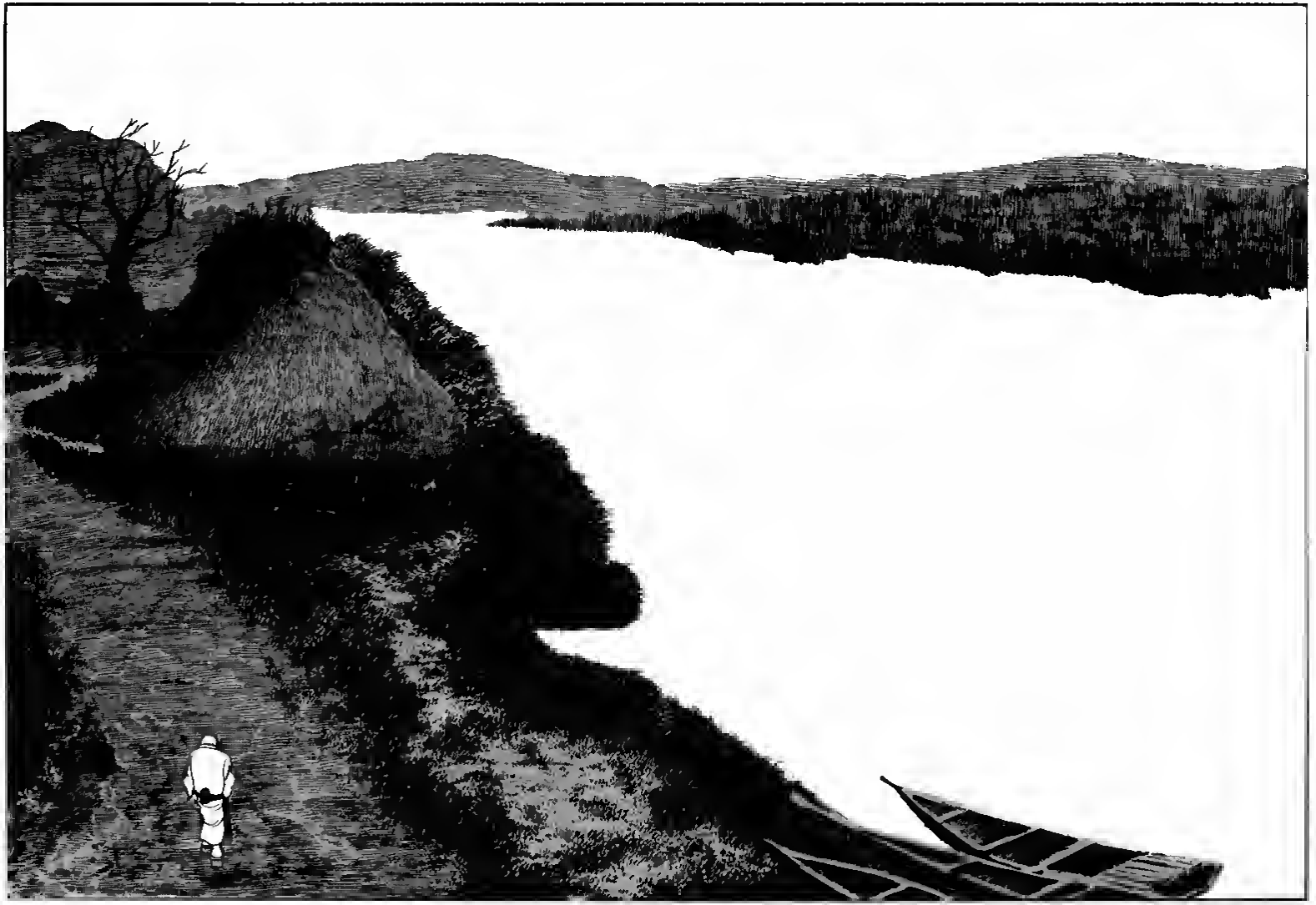
M-Mr. Shotoken... I-I didn't actually...
Give me back my son!!
Give me back my son!
Give me back my son.
Woah!!
Urrgh! Urrgh!
Wehehe...
Wehheh..

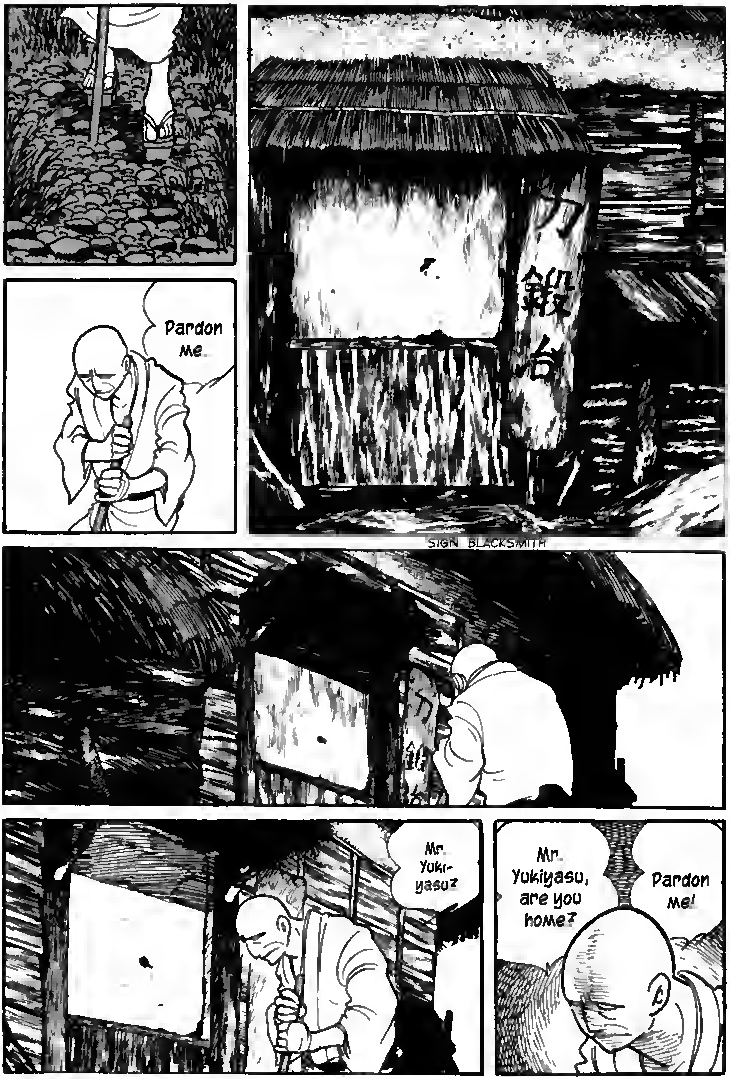


May 1969: "To Kill" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 38
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND
HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE
BY TROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHŌTARŌ

# Chapter 39: Fire Bed



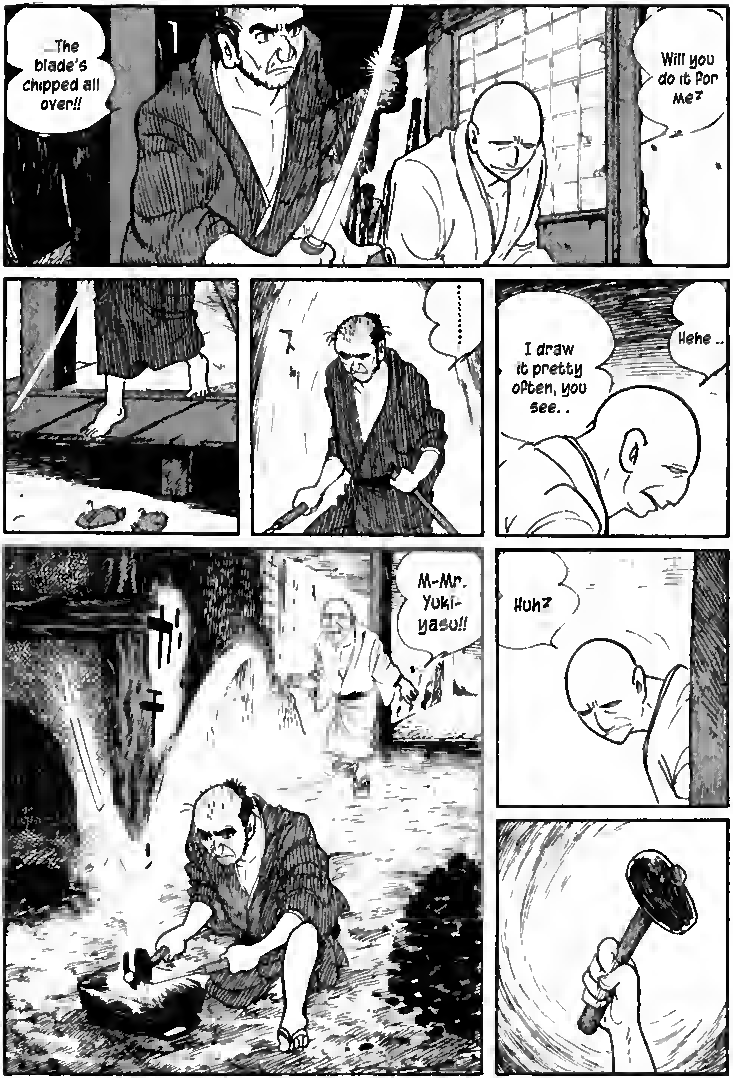

Pardon me.
刀鍛冶
SIGN: BLACKSMITH
Mr. Yukiyasu?
Mr. Yukiyasu, are you home?
Pardon me!

Shut up!!
W-Who's there!?
If you're a loan shark...
Then I'll get you your goddamn money!!
Hehe.. Just the Masseur, Matsu-no-Ichi.
You seem to be in a good mood today, Mr. Yukiyasu
T-The Masseur... Uhhh, Matsu-no-Ichi?
Mr. Yuki-yasu.
Heh.. hehe...
I'm no loan shark,
Hmm?

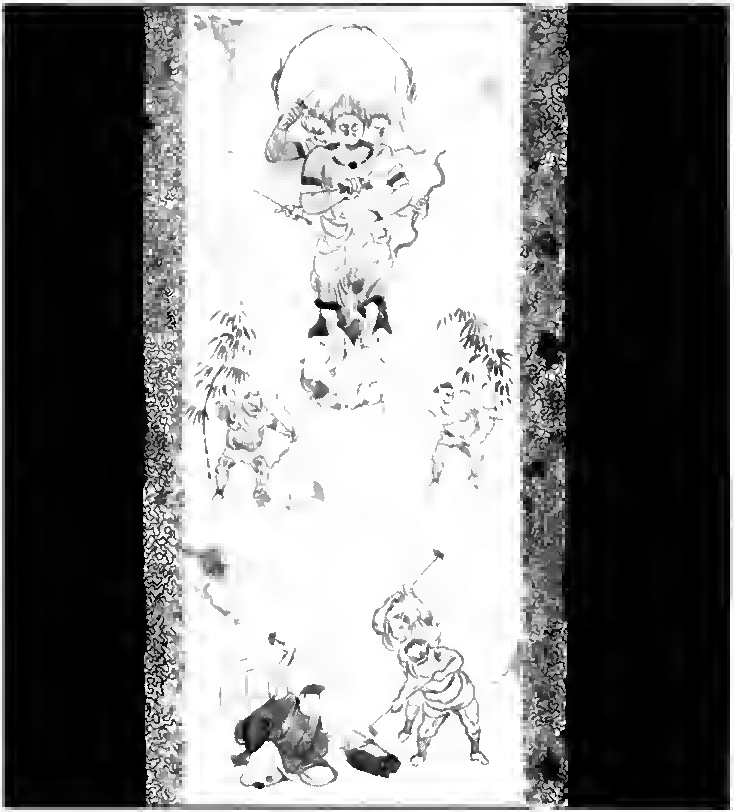
Uhhh
Hic!
You see, I've come here to ask you sharpen this beaut once again.
Yes.
Oh, it's you.
I've decided to quit being a blacksmith.
No, don't bother.
To-morrow?
I guess .. it would be better if I came back tomorrow.
Heh hehe, Mr Yukiyasu, looks like the liquor's gotten to you
Quit being a blacksmith?
But why?
A failure, I said!!
I'm .. I'm a failure!
It's true! I quit!!
I-I'm... through!!

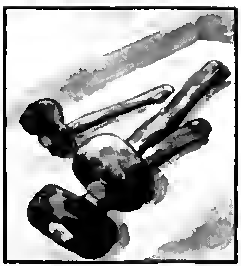
Heh... hehe... Doesn't matter how skilled I am... Without any work, it doesn't mean a thing.
Mr. Yukiyasu, w-what's the matter?
Wow... are you a Pastore?
You have such a refined skill as a blacksmith...
That's why I come all the time to...
Even the jobs I do get... are dirt-cheap goods.
Hmpf, all cause my name's Yukiyasu... It's not funny, I tell you!
...The people are just blind to your skill!
I mean it!!
.....
What an upside-down world we live in!!
Heh... hehe he...
Hehehe...
Heh... So you, a real blind man, are the only one who approves of my skill.

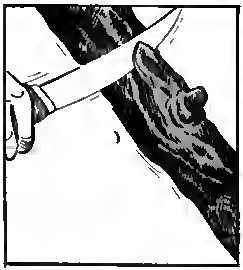
...Is your wife out today...?
Much obliged
Uh, Sure.
...How 'bout a drink...?
Oh...?
At this rate, w-we'll both starve to death...
...S-She went back home.
S... Show it to me
Is that why you're in such a foul mood!?
Mr. Yukiyasu?
Is that so...
Oh
Huh?
This...?

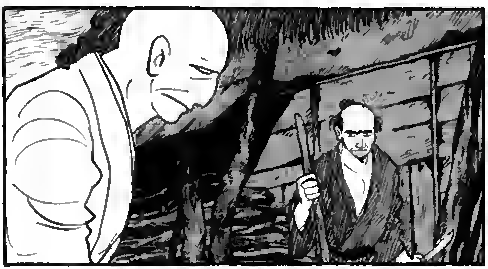

...The blade's chipped all over!!
Will you do it for Me?
Hehe..
I draw it pretty often, you see..
Huh?
M-Mr. Yuki-yaso!!

this sword's reached the end of its lifespan.
Matsu-no-Ichi,
W-What are you doing!?
You can't just keep sharpening it forever.
What do you say, Matsu-no-Ichi?
How about I forge you a new sword-cane?
T-That would be more than I could ask for...
But I don't have any...
If you must, just give me the sharpening fee you always pay me...
...I'll make do...
Oh, don't worry about the money.
Matsu-no-Ichi,
You may find this strange...
But I've been wanting to forge something... that people would recognize as Yukiyasu's sword.
Mr. Yukiyasu...
B-But...

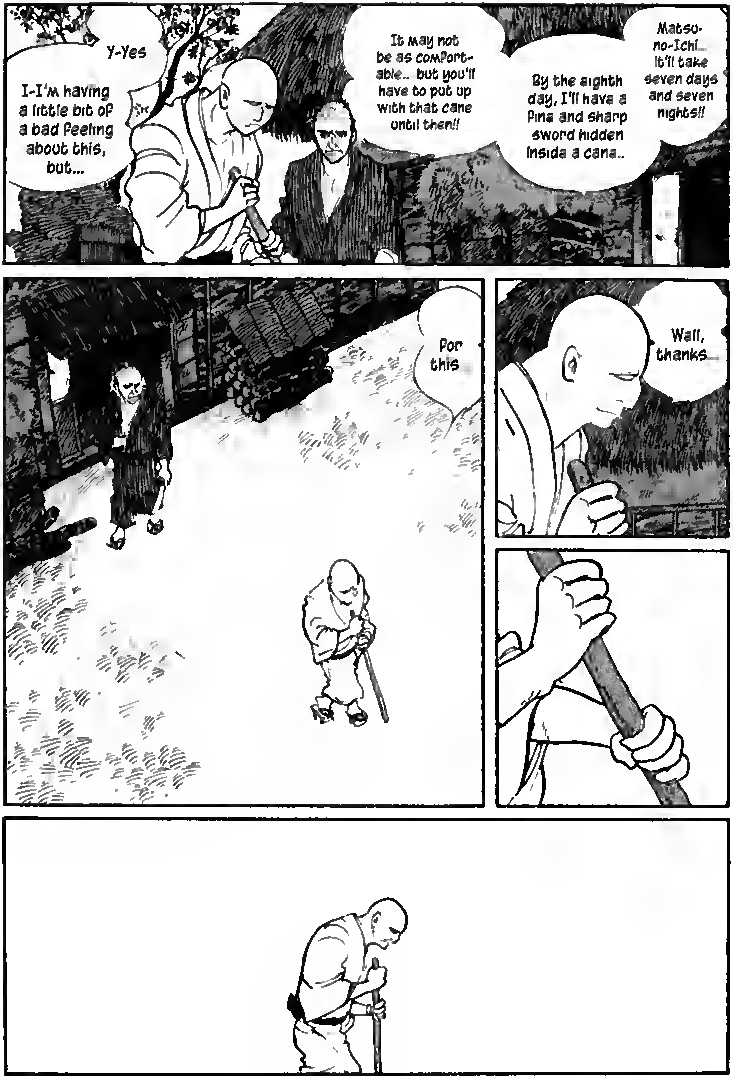


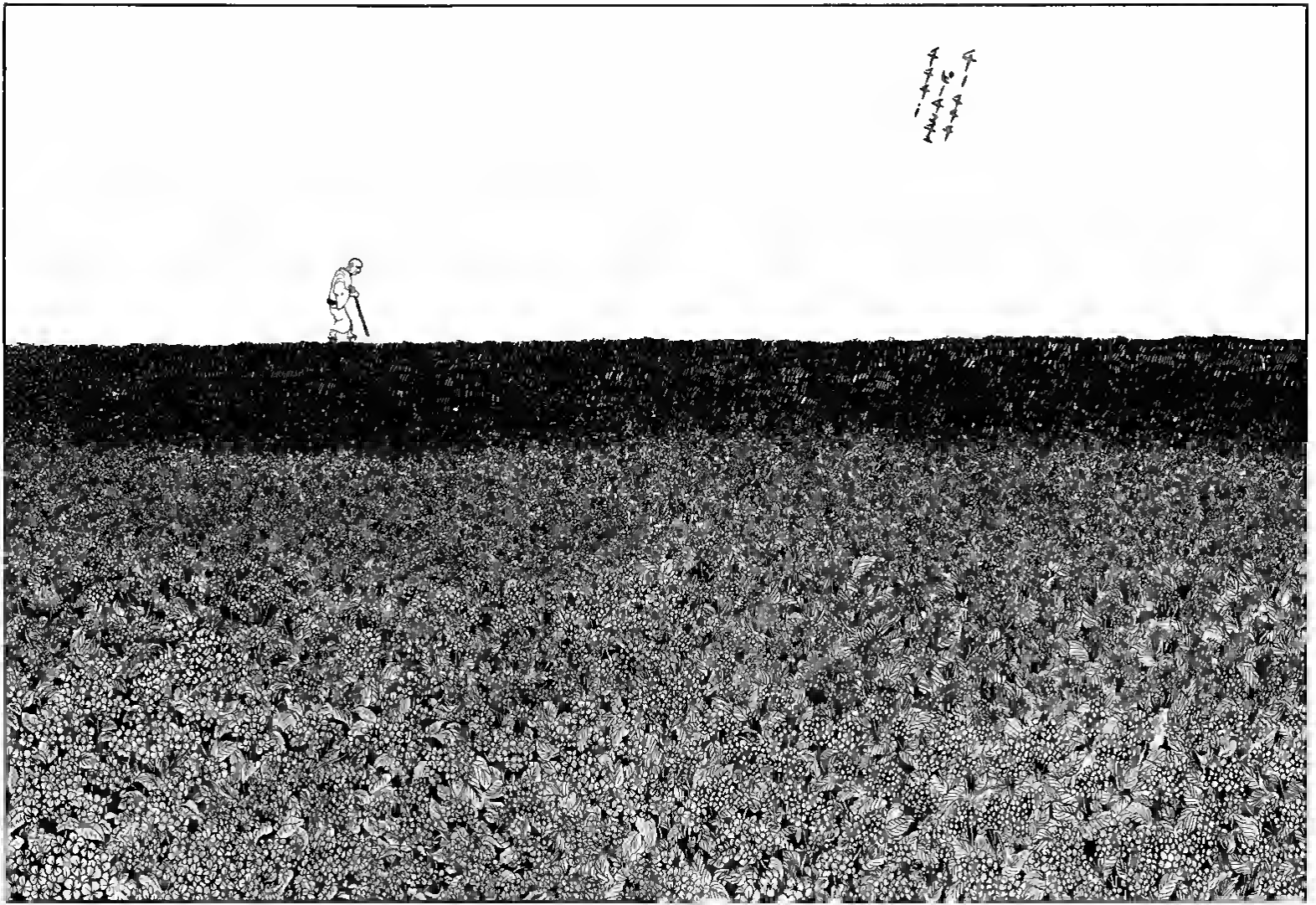


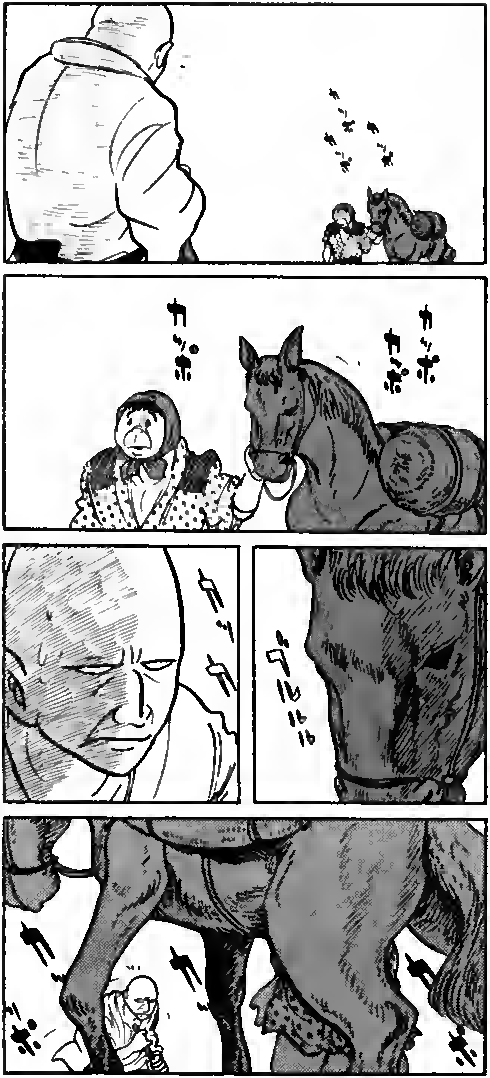




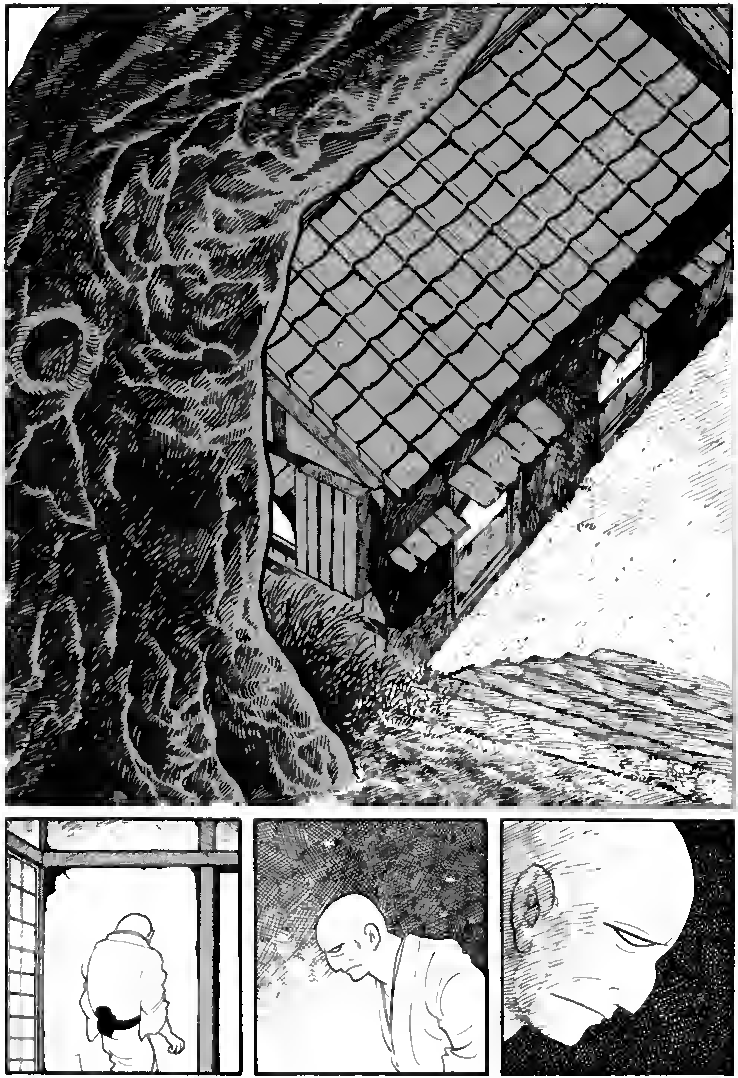
ドキ
ドキ


Y-Yes
I-I'm having a little bit of a bad feeling about this, but...
It may not be as comfortable... but you'll have to put up with that cane until then!!
By the eighth day, I'll have a pina and sharp sword hidden inside a cane..
Matsuno-Ichi... It'll take seven days and seven nights!!
Por this
Well, thanks



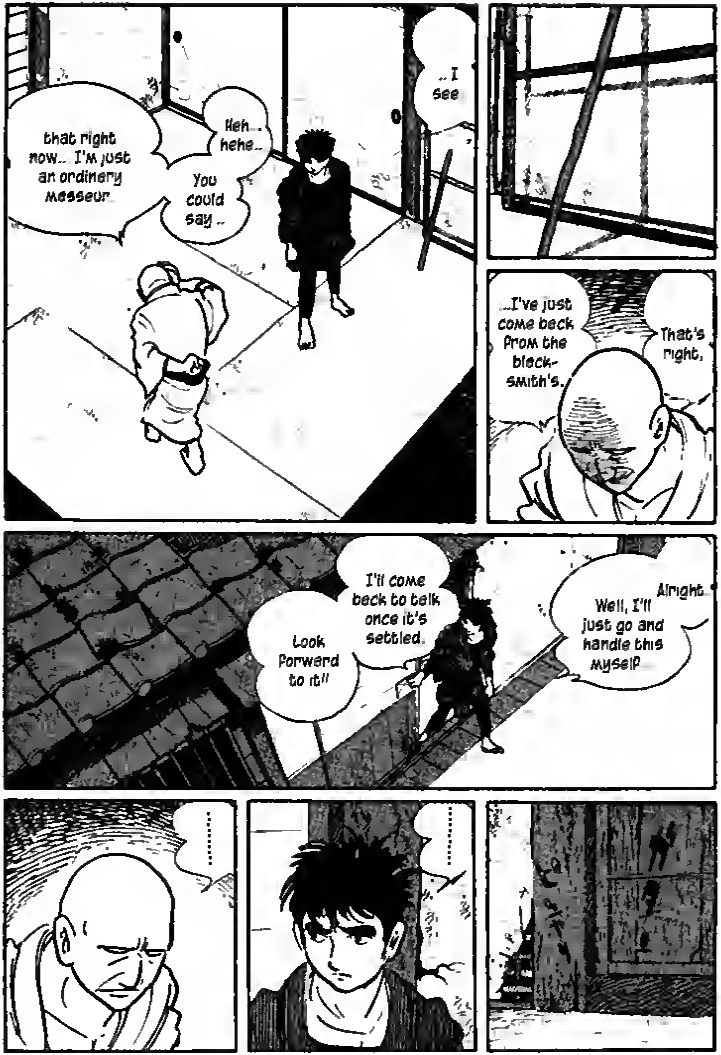

カッカッ
カッカッ
ブルルル

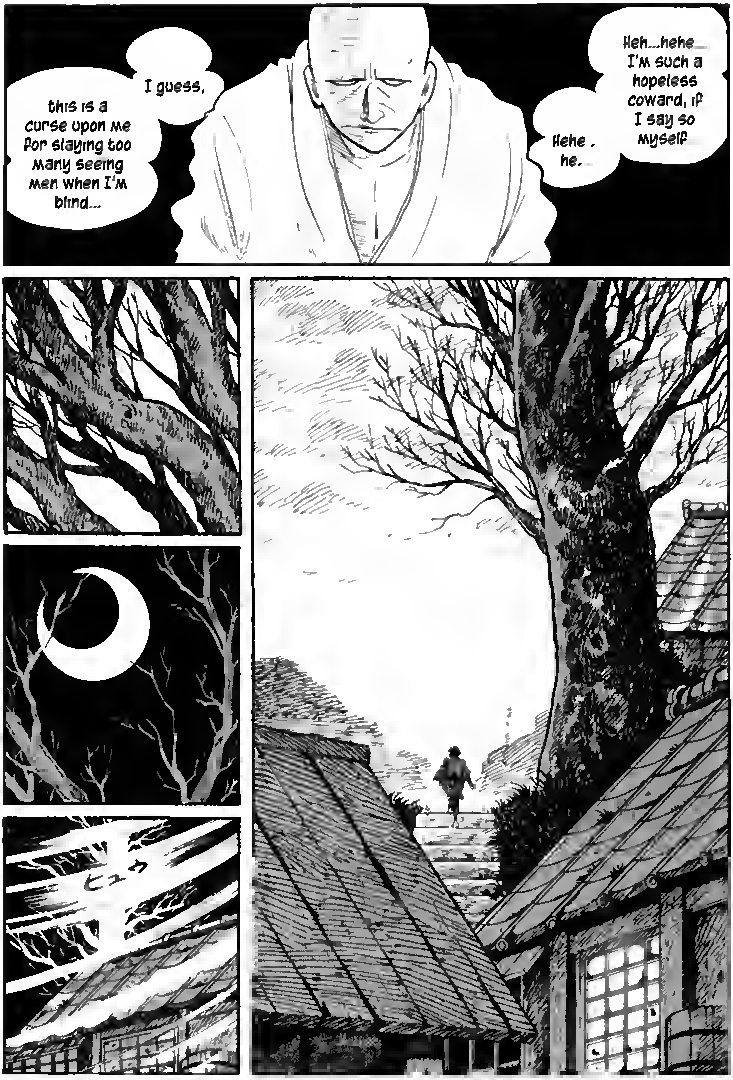
Hehehe-hehe...
Whoa...
Whoa...
.....
..S-Seven days!?

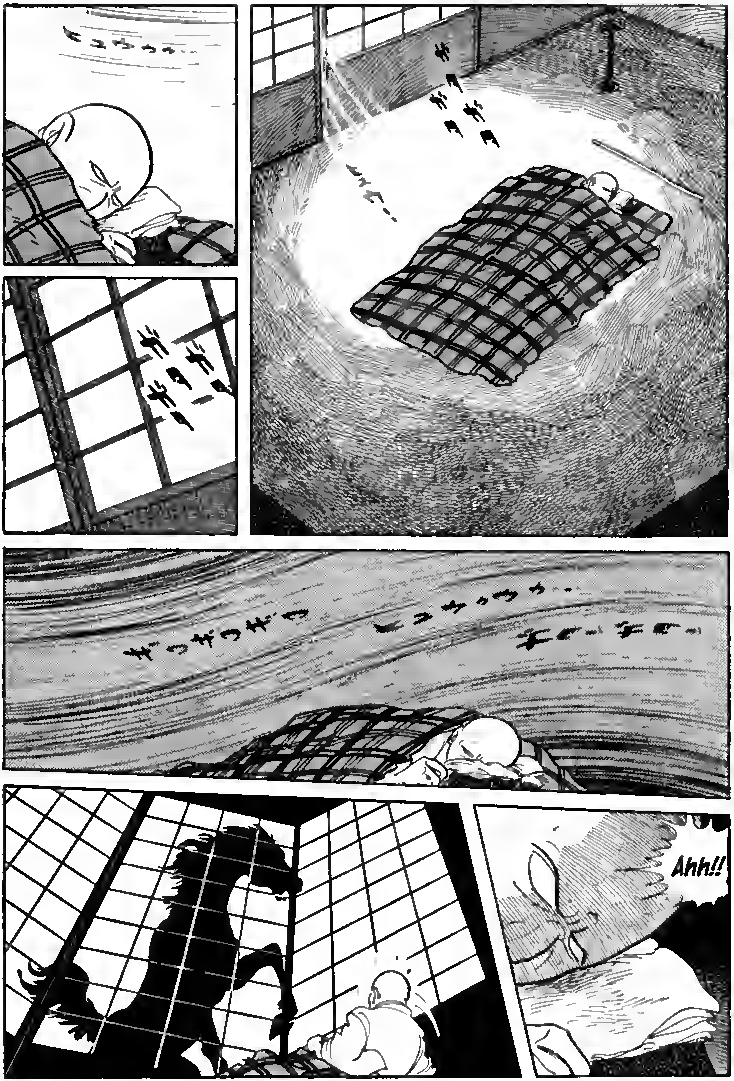


...I just...
to calm down...
can't seem...

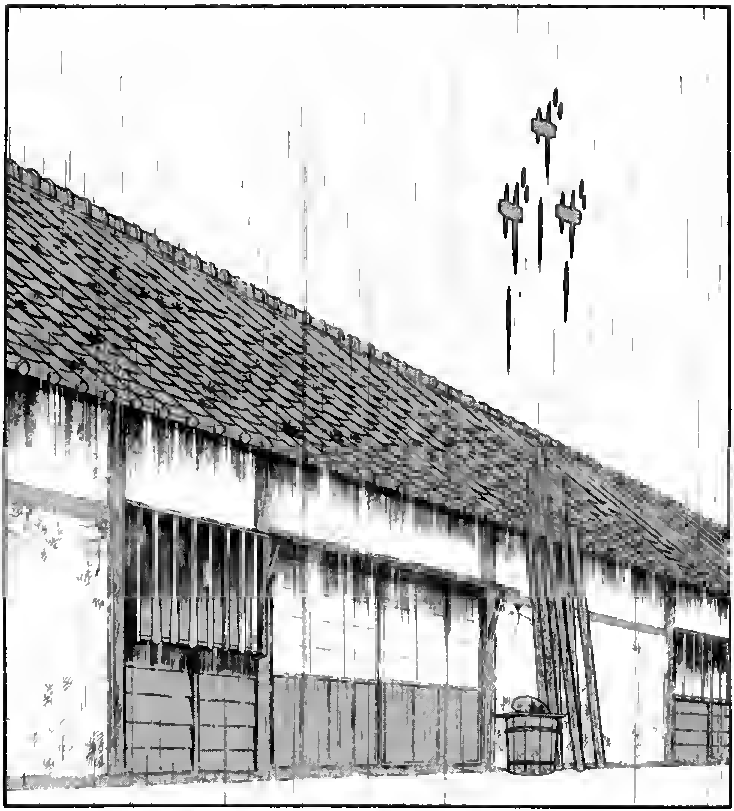
Ichi! Bad news!!
Hold on a sec...
Sabu!
No, don't say it!
And I can't!
I can't move... for seven days and nights!
IF you tell me, I'll want to go!
Huh?
W-What's the matter, Ichi?
Are you... not feeling well?
N-No, not quite...
But I guess...
It's a little bit like an illness...
Look over at that...
Ah!!

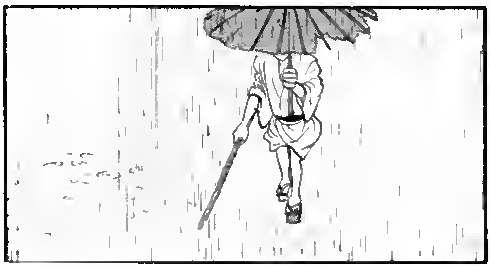

..I see
Heh.. hehe..
You could say ..
that right now.. I'm just an ordinary masseur
...I've just come back from the black-smith's..
That's right,
Alright..
Well, I'll just go and handle this myself
I'll come back to talk once it's settled.
Look forward to it!!
.....
.....

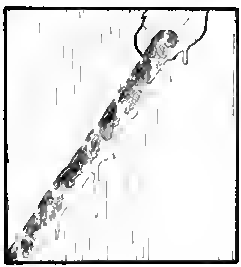

I guess, this is a curse upon me for slaying too many seeing men when I'm blind...
Hehe . he..
Heh...hehe... I'm such a hopeless coward, if I say so myself!
ヒュウ

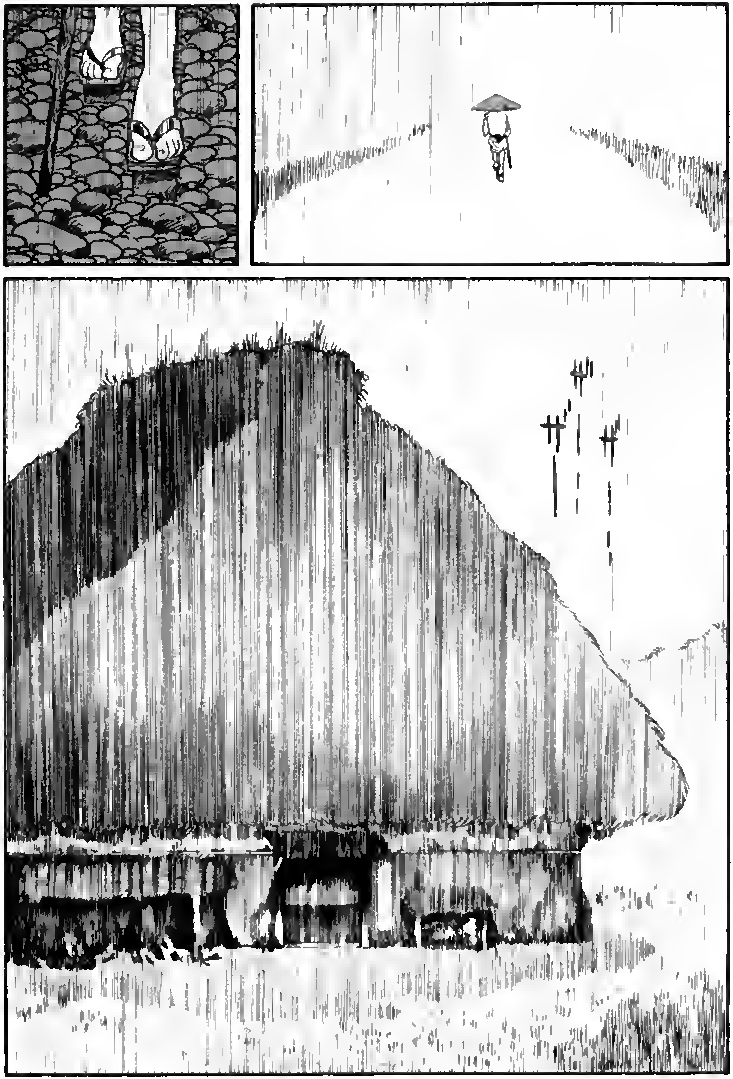

Ahh!!

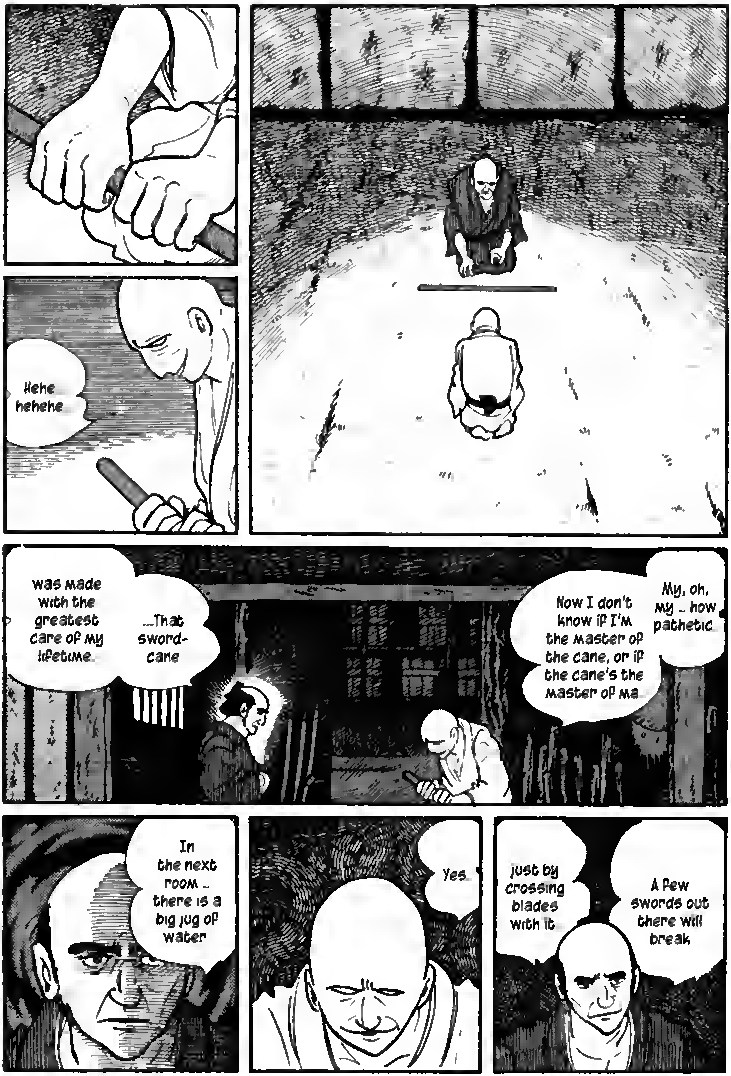
Ahhhh!
T... This... is not good.
……

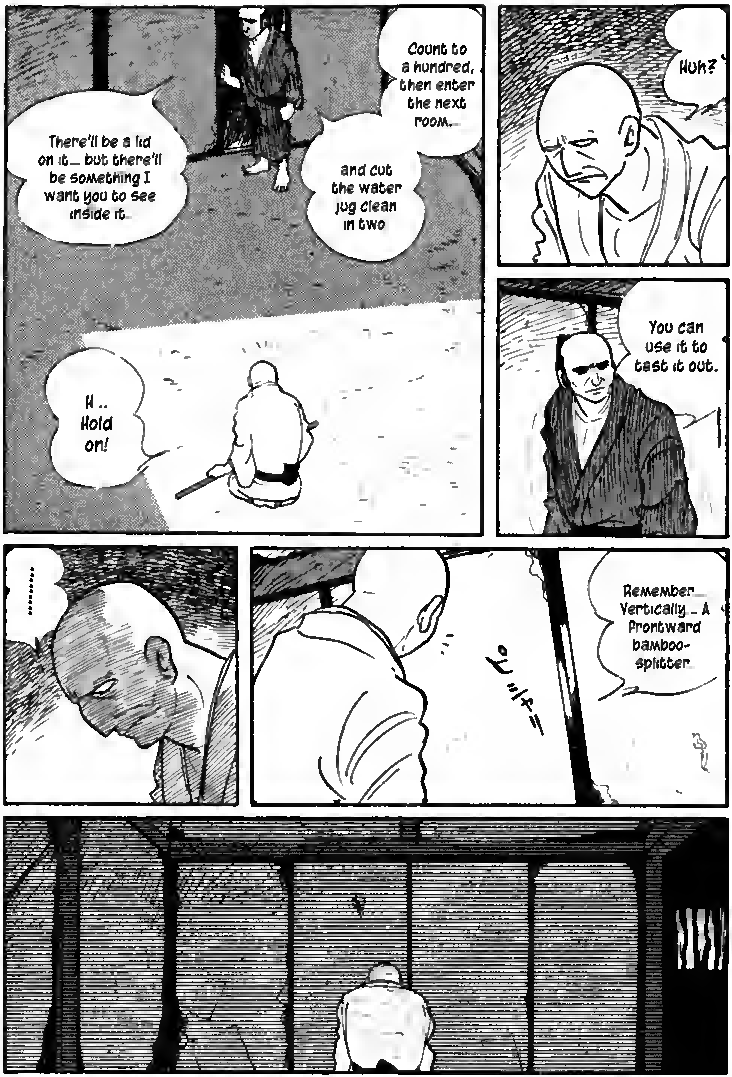


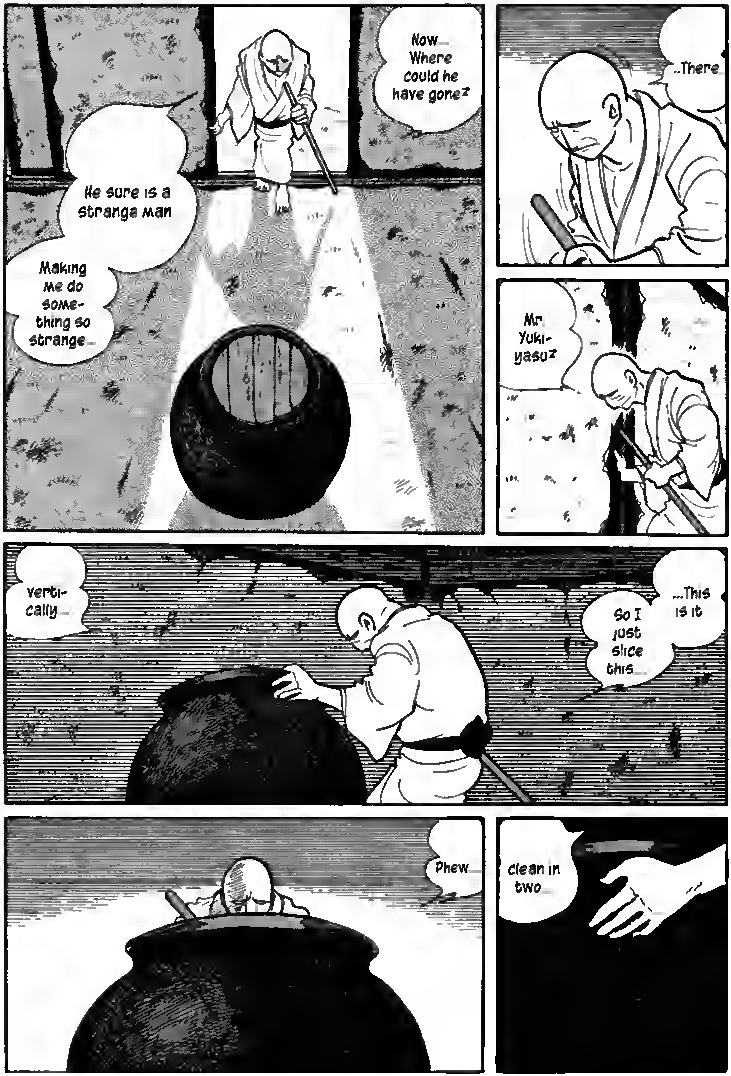


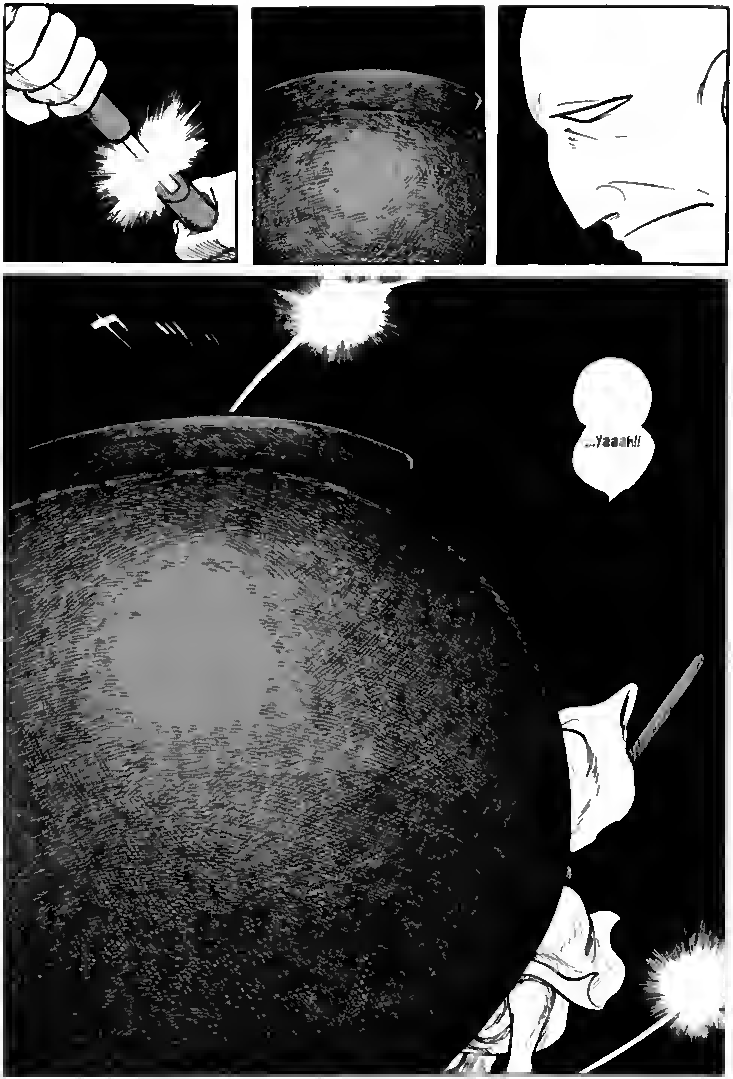


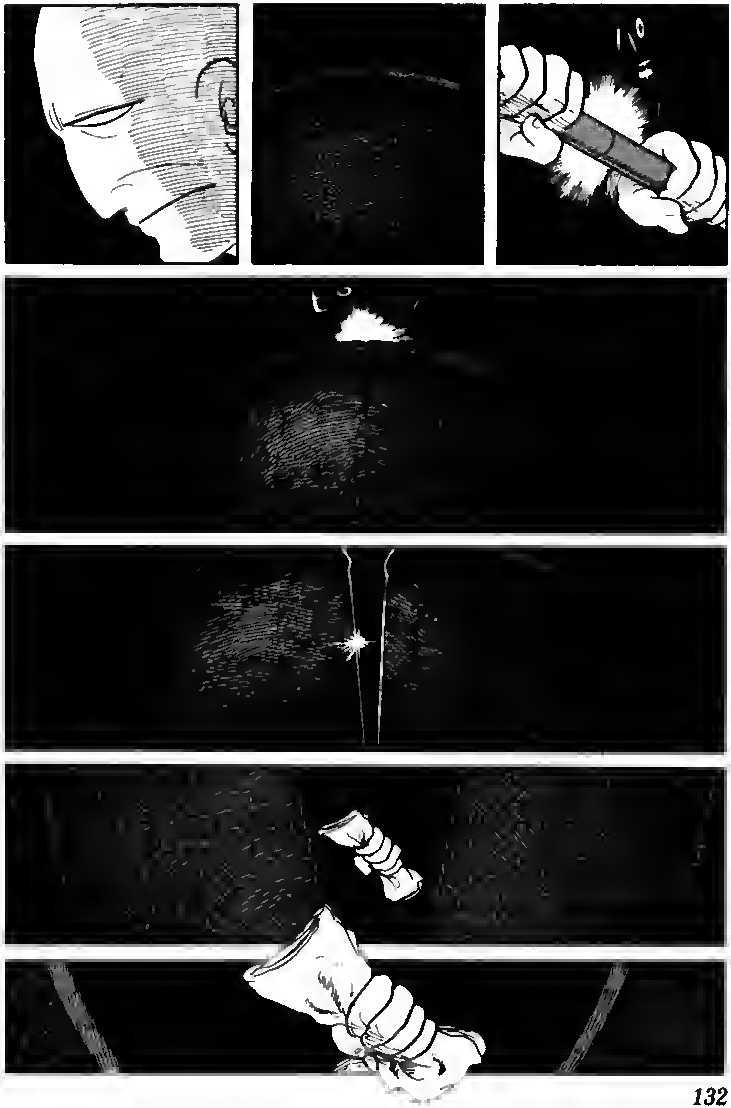



Hehe hehehe
My, oh, my .. how pathetic
Now I don't know if I'm the master of the cane, or if the cane's the master of me
...That sword-cane was made with the greatest care of my lifetime
In the next room .. there is a big jug of water
Yes
A few swords out there will break just by crossing blades with it


Count to a hundred, then enter the next room...
and cut the water jug clean in two
There'll be a lid on it... but there'll be something I want you to see inside it.
H.. Hold on!
Huh?
You can use it to test it out.
.....
Remember... Vertically - A frontward bamboo-splitter.


Now... Where could he have gone?
He sure is a strange man
Making me do some-thing so strange...
...There
Mr. Yuki-yasu?
...This is it
So I just slice this...
verti-cally...
Phew...
clean in two...


...Yaaah!!

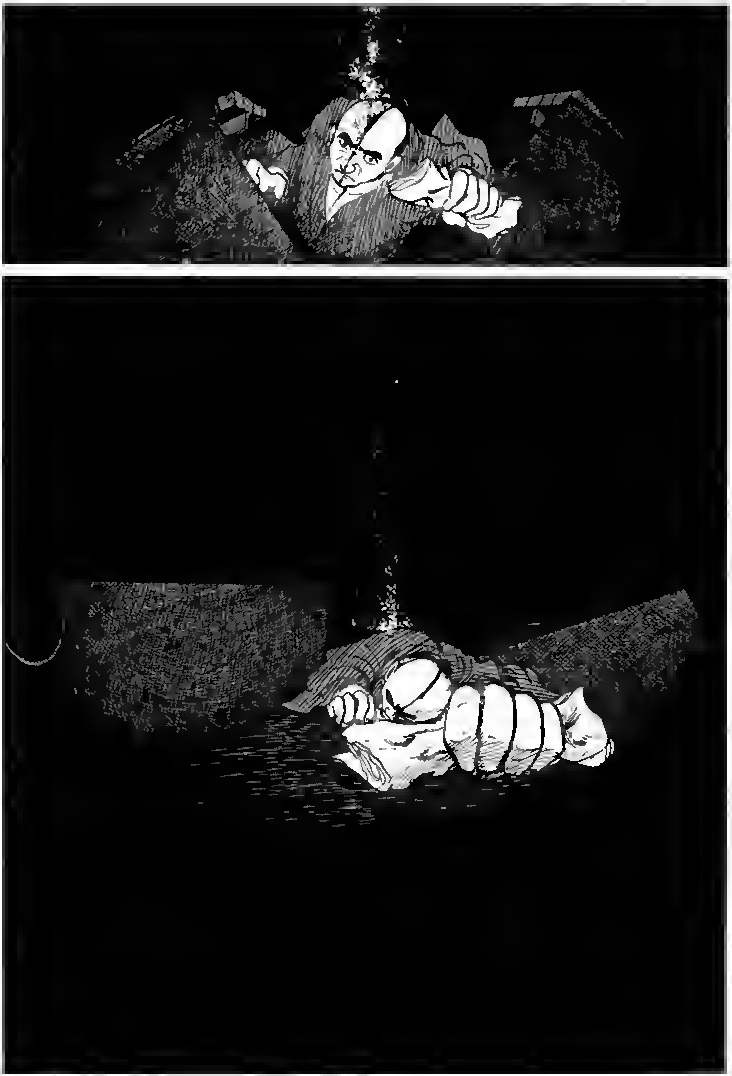


...Eight days ago, I killed my wife Masu and a travelling merchant whose name I do not know. Masu alone would have been enough, but with the course of events, I had no choice. Eight days ago, when I had returned from a trip, I saw Masu and that man sleeping together in my house.

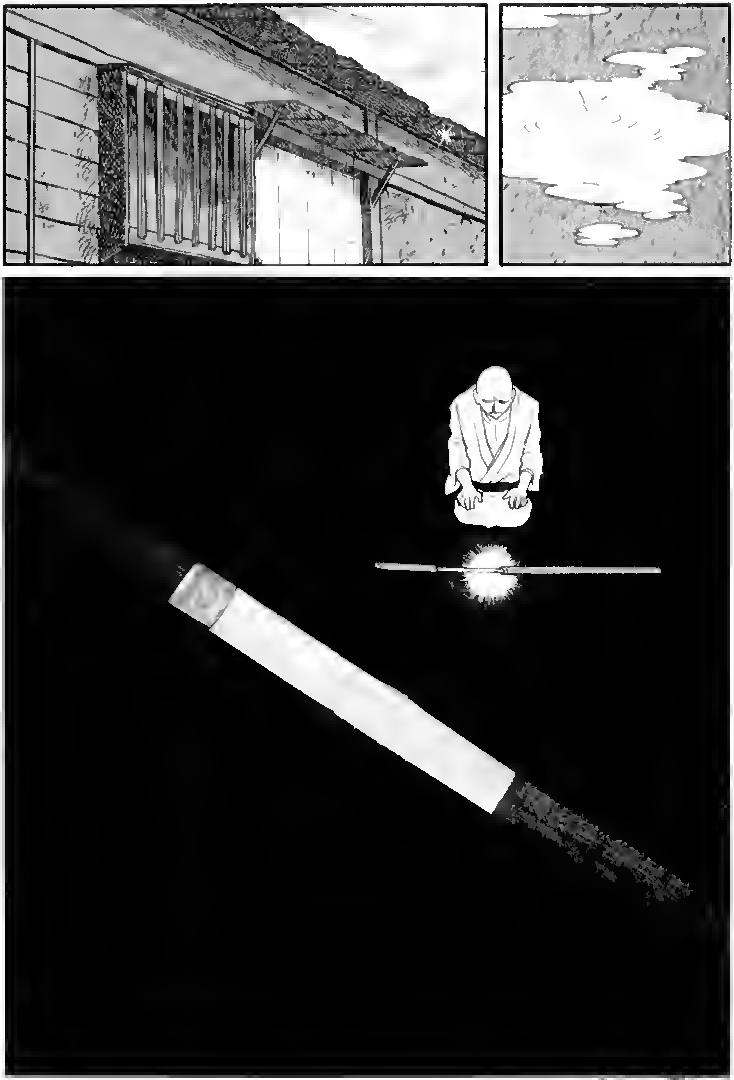
After I killed them, I stripped them naked, stuck their faces into the fire bed so that they would be unrecognizable, and tossed them into the Okawa. And the merchant that Masu had reeled in had a surprising amount of cash in his money belt..

But now that I look back on it, as much as she had committed adultery, I had done a pitiful thing. We blacksmiths must refrain from impurities when we forge a sword. And the same goes even when making dirt-cheap swords on tough times.

Thus, I spent many days away from Masu. And before I knew it, Masu, a woman in her prime... I must have set fire to the fire bed of the intemperate Masu's body. It's not even funny. I began to hate the work of a blacksmith...



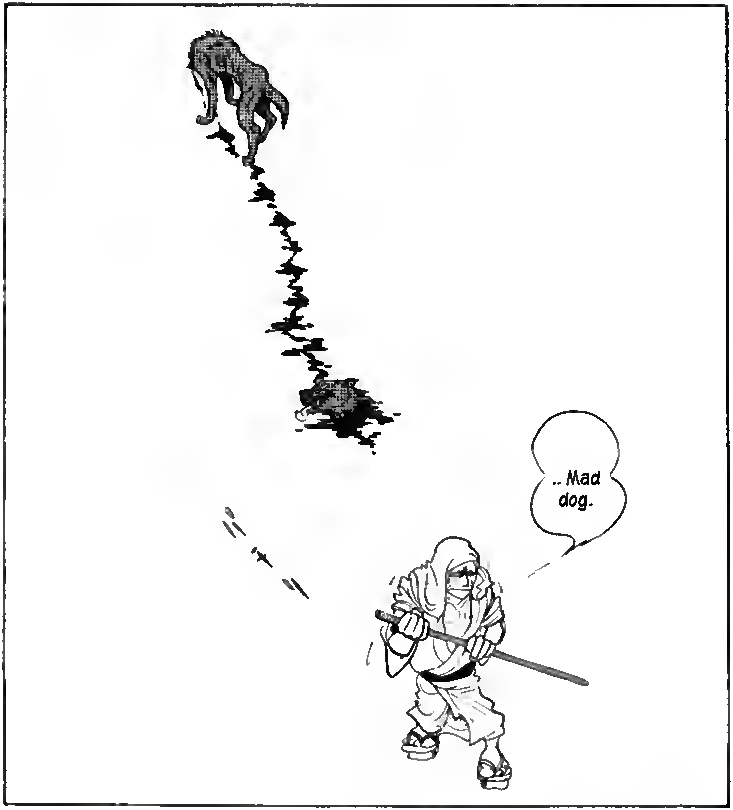
It was to tell you that a man and a woman's naked corpses had been found floating in tha Okawa!!
When I came barging into your room sevan days ago...
.....
Now the case is closed... thanks to you
But.
Wa were at a loss because thair faces were burned, so we couldn't discover their identity

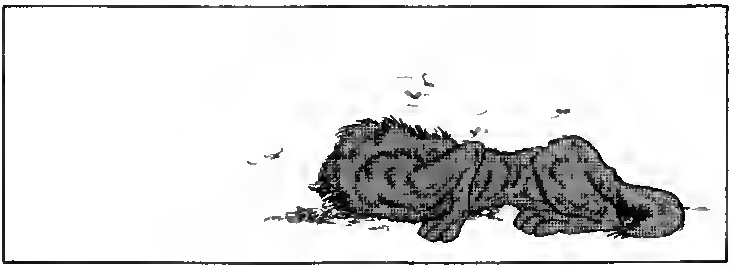


May 1969: "Fire Bed" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 39
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND
HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE
BY TROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHŌTARŌ

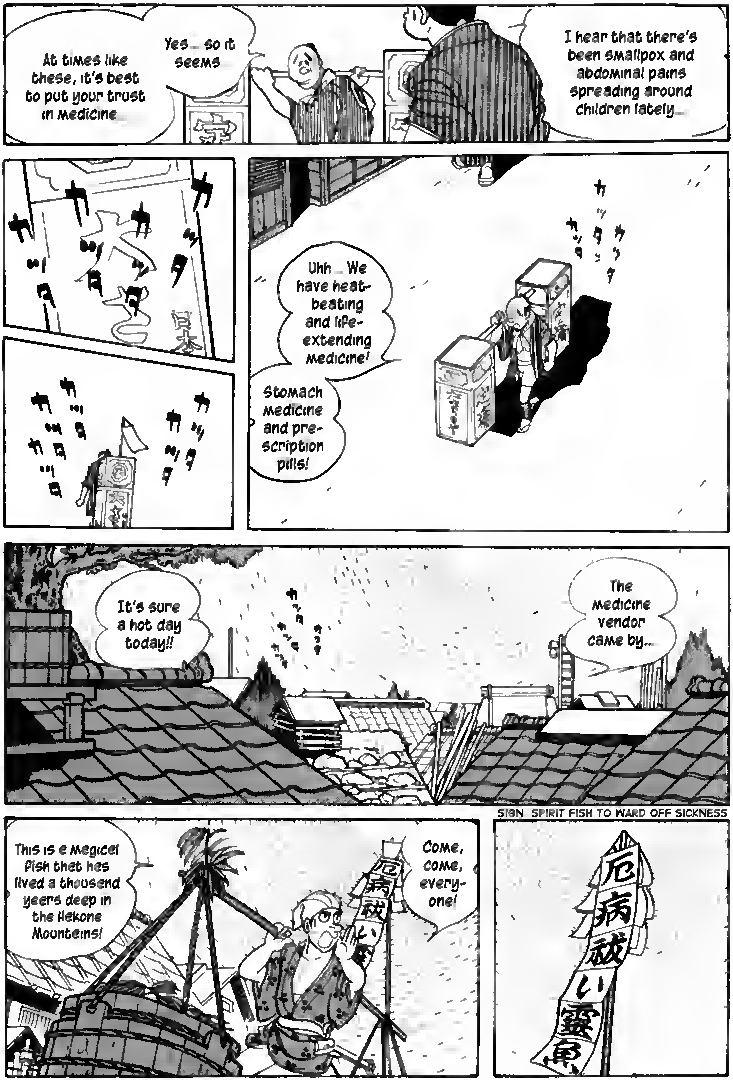
# Chapter 40: Mad Dog


..Mad dog.



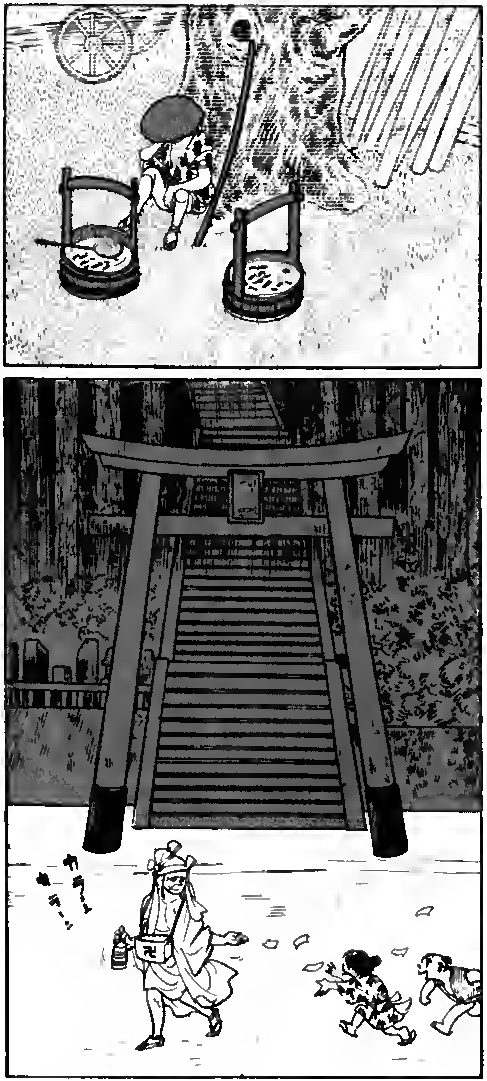
A dancing priest!
It's a dancing priest!

Sickness begone, heat begone!
Sickness begone, heat begone!
...That'll be sixty mon... Yes, thenk you very much...
You said it...
Sure is humid out This yeer's especielly hot
But I'm still not feeling safe
and bought two straw snakes and set them up in my house...
Hehehe... I went to the Fuji Shrine in Komagome...


At times like these, it's best to put your trust in Medicine...
Yes... so it seems
I hear that there's been smallpox and abdominal pains spreading around children lately...
Uhh... We have heat-beating and life-extending medicine!
Stomach medicine and prescription pills!
It's sure a hot day today!!
The medicine vendor came by...
This is a magical fish that has lived a thousand years deep in the Hakone Mountains!
Come, come, everyone!
厄病祓い霊魚

SIGN: SPIRIT FISH TO WARD OFF SICKNESS

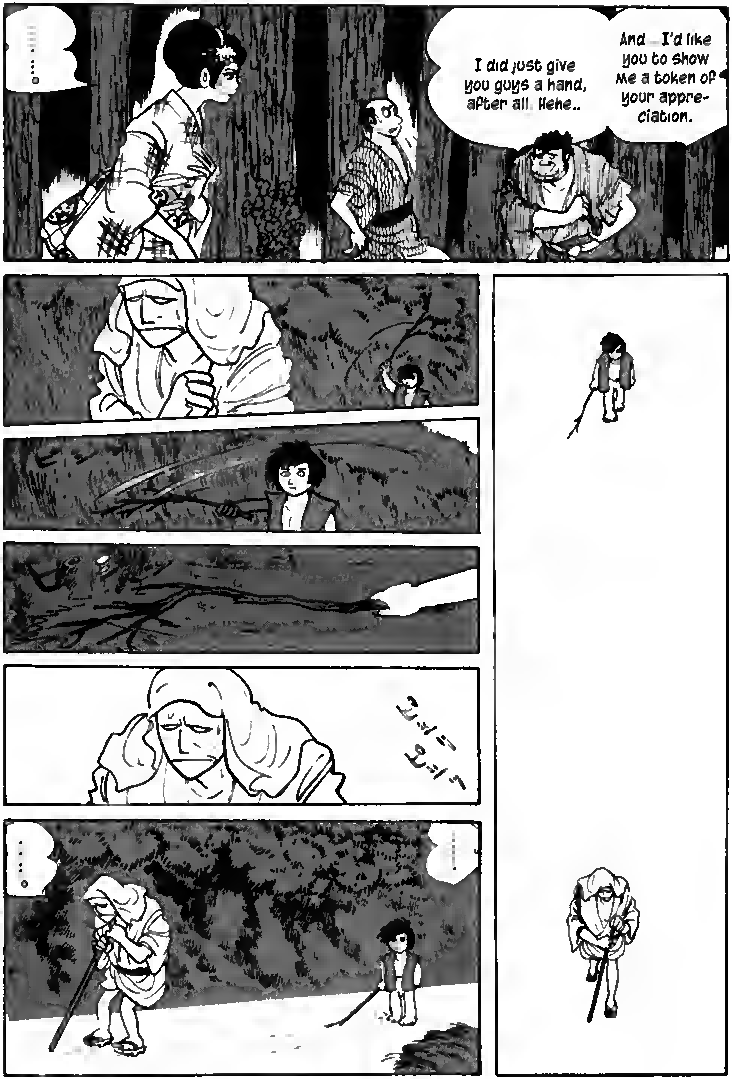
A hundred Mon
Huh? That's... a little too steep, ain't it?
It's pretty cheap when you weigh the balance of your children's lives to your purse, Mister.
Look upon it, and blessings will come not only to your children, but to the adults of your family!
Your sicknesses will be healed, and you will no longer need doctors or medicine!
Oh... How much do you charge per look?
Go right ahead.
Alright, I'll go ahead and have a look.
Well, you make a fine point...
Oh! This is...
A white asiiz

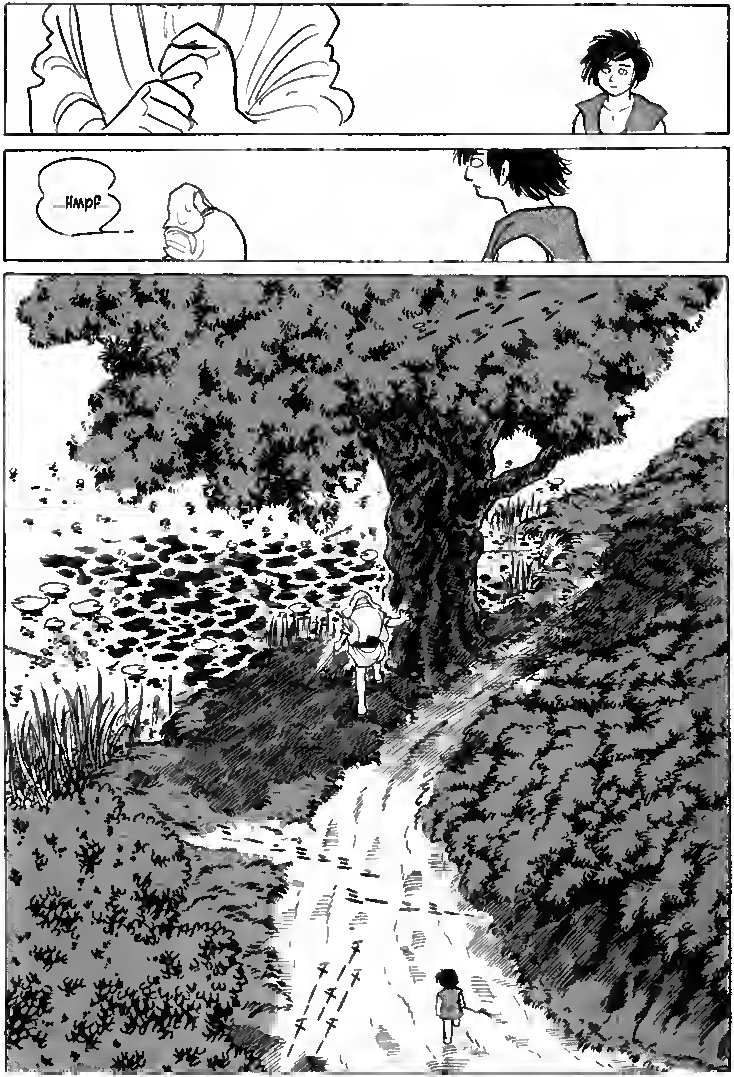

Yaaay!
Yaaay!
Ahaha
haha!
Ahaha!

God-dam-mit!!
Pppt!

Hmm?
H, H-Help Me!!
Ah!!
M-Mur-derer... Help Me!!

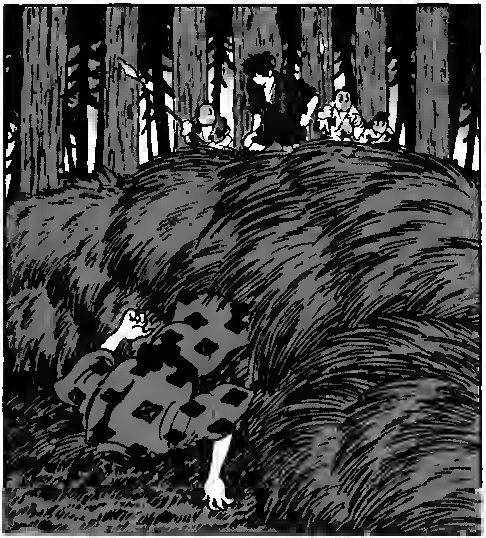
Urk!!
A-Ahh
シュウ
Wah!!
Why don't you come on out too, young lady?
Hehehe

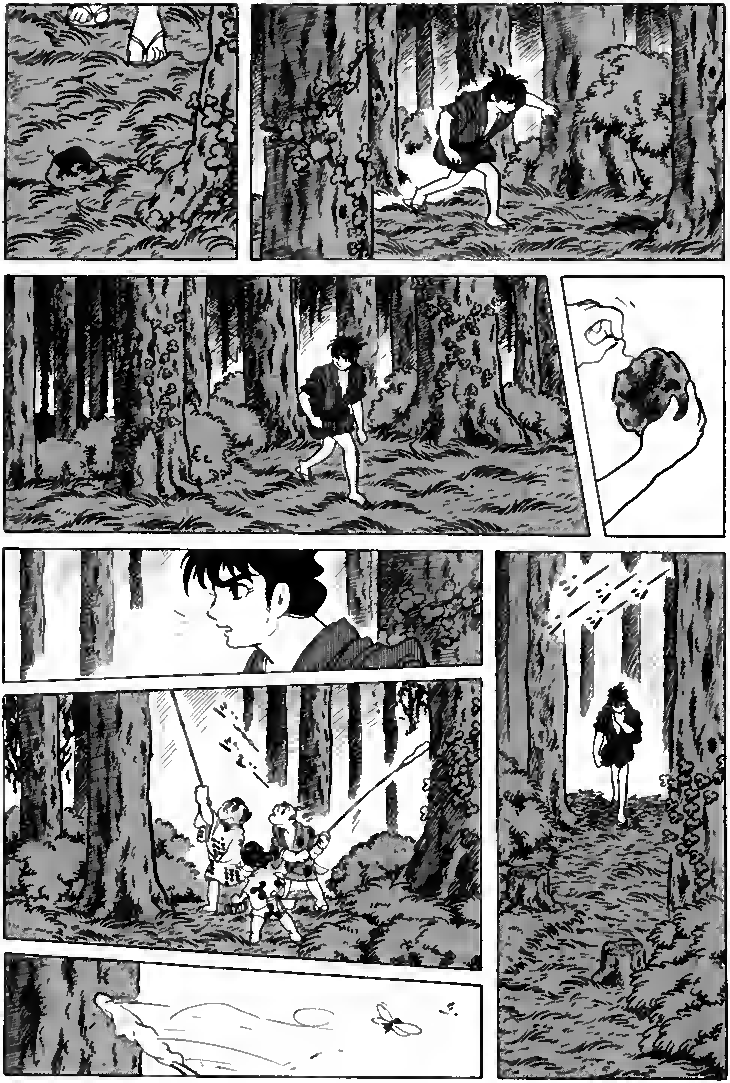

……。
I did just give you guys a hand, after all. Hehe..
And... I'd like you to show me a token of your appreciation.
ヒュン
ブシュー
……。
……。

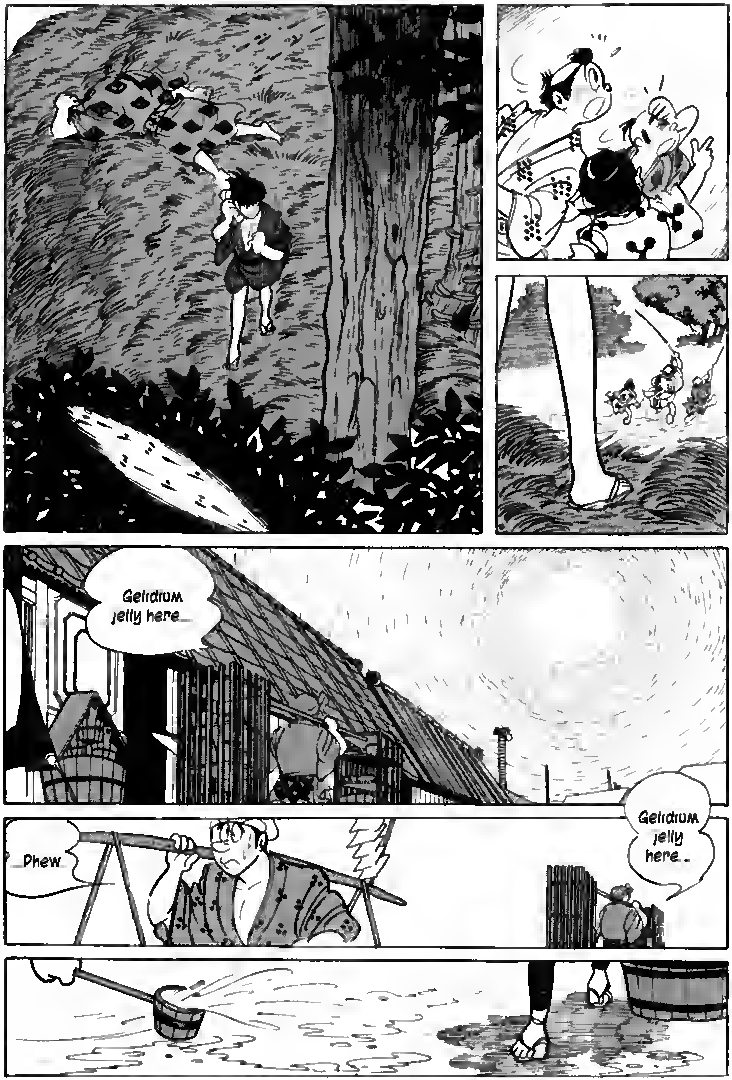

…HMPF

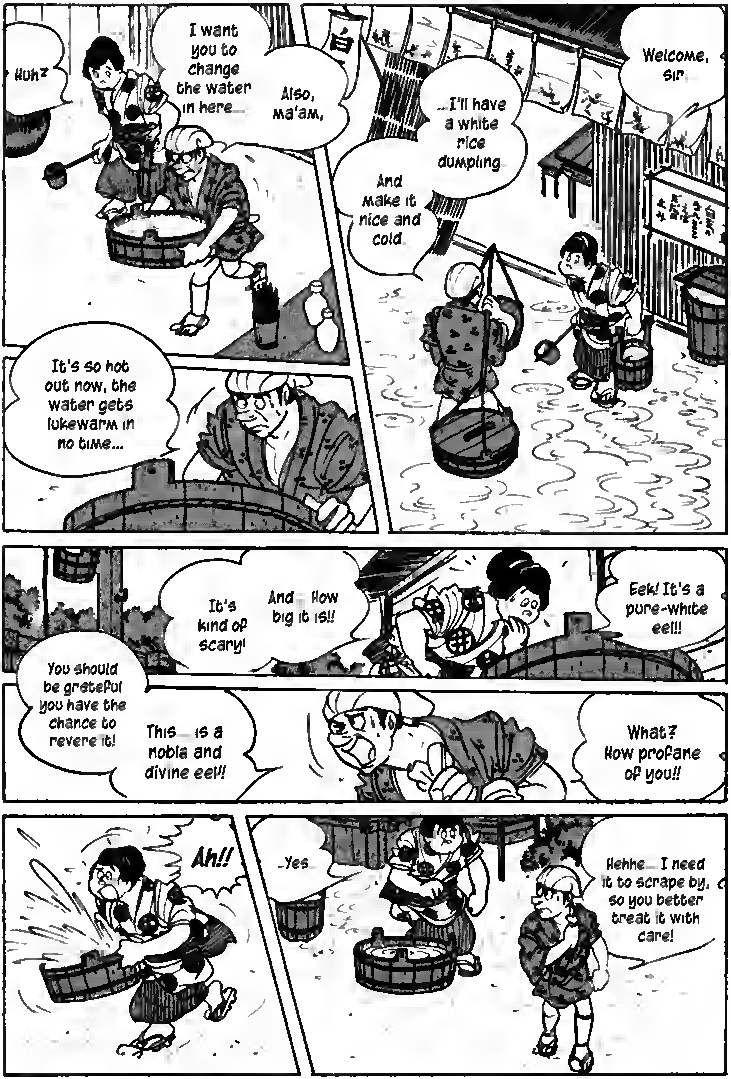
Phew
Hey, kid.
Why did you follow me?
You saw that, didn't you?
...You've been after me since I killed the dog.
...I'm going to take a nap
Doesn't matter how long you wait there
I won't... kill any more
But...

...Hey, kid... You hear me?
So... You go on home
I'm going to sleep!
Have it your way.
Tch, what a weird brat!!



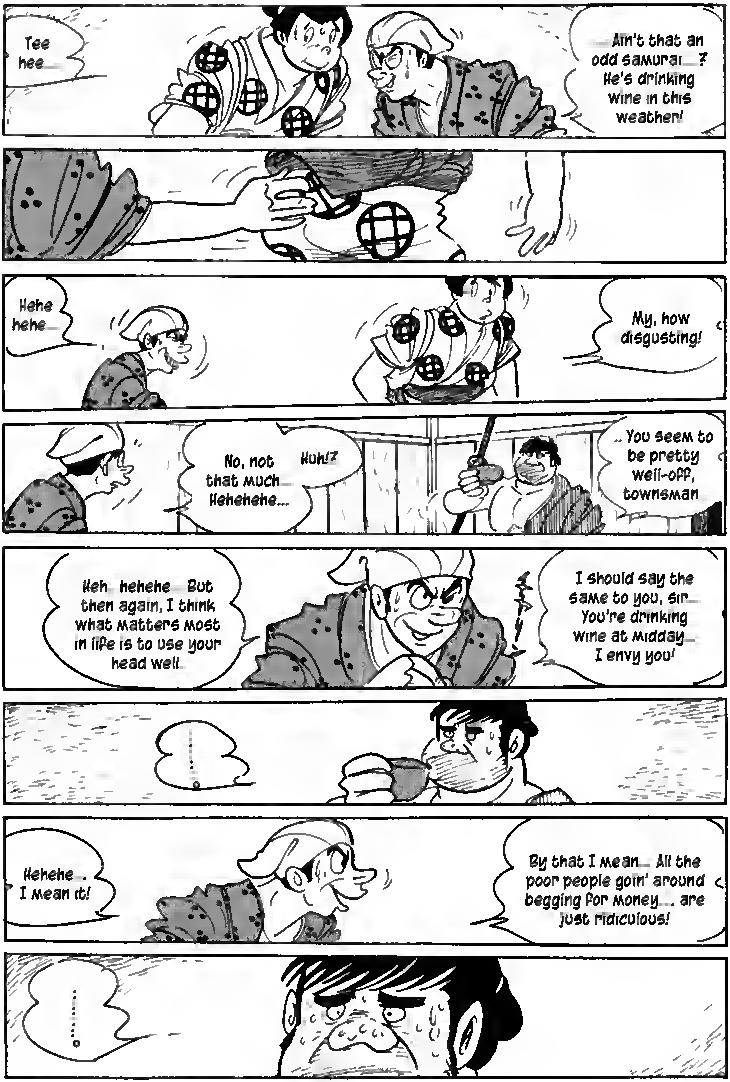



Gelidrum jelly here...
Phew
Gelidrum jelly here..

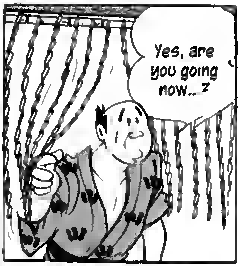

Huh?
I want you to change the water in here...
Also, ma'am,
Welcome, sir.
...I'll have a white rice dumpling.
And make it nice and cold.
It's so hot out now, the water gets lukewarm in no time...
Eek! It's a pure-white eel!!!
And... how big it is!!
It's kind of scary!
You should be grateful you have the chance to revere it!
This... is a noble and divine eel!!
What? How profane of you!!
Ah!!
...Yes.
Hehhe... I need it to scrape by, so you better treat it with care!

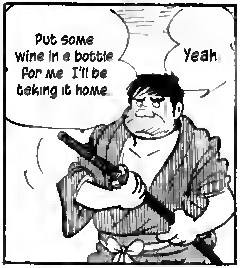
Ulp!!
Y-you bitch!!
I-I told you to treat it with care!!
What if the worst were to happen!?
...Hmpf.
Here, thanks for waiting.
Oh, oh, oh, poor thing... You've gotten so dirty...
Dumb broad!!

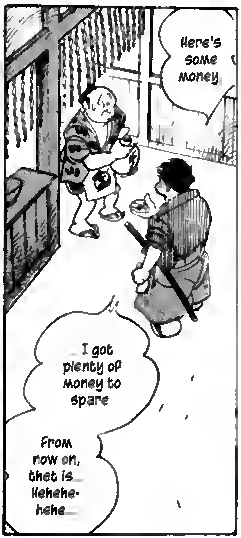
Heh.. hehe... Sure is hot out today, ain't it..?
Hey, I'll have another!
Alright then..
Hehhehehe.. Hey there, ma'am
Here..
Well, I hope.. this will put you back in a hearty mood
After all, that thing's almost as important to me as my life
Sorry about earlier, I just flew off the handle


Tee hee...
...Ain't that an odd samurai...? He's drinking wine in this weather!
Hehe hehe...
My, how disgusting!
No, not that much... Hehehehe...
Huh!?
...You seem to be pretty well-off, townsman
Heh heh... But then again, I think what matters most in life is to use your head well...
I should say the same to you, sir... You're drinking wine at midday... I envy you!
Hehehe... I mean it!
By that I mean... All the poor people goin' around begging for money... are just ridiculous!
.....

Heh hehehe... Yes, I suppose you could say that...
...I see. So you're using that keen head of yours, by using that eel to go around as a charmer, warding off evil
Isn't it kind of a waste to do nothing but look at such a miraculous eel?
Besides, eels are eaten to ward off the heat.
...Well, eel-man, why don't you broil that eel and eat it?
Y-You must be joking! That's simply out of the question!!
Huh!?
Hehe he...
I must be going
Hey, pops.
That accursed third-rate Pool!!


Yes, are you going now... z

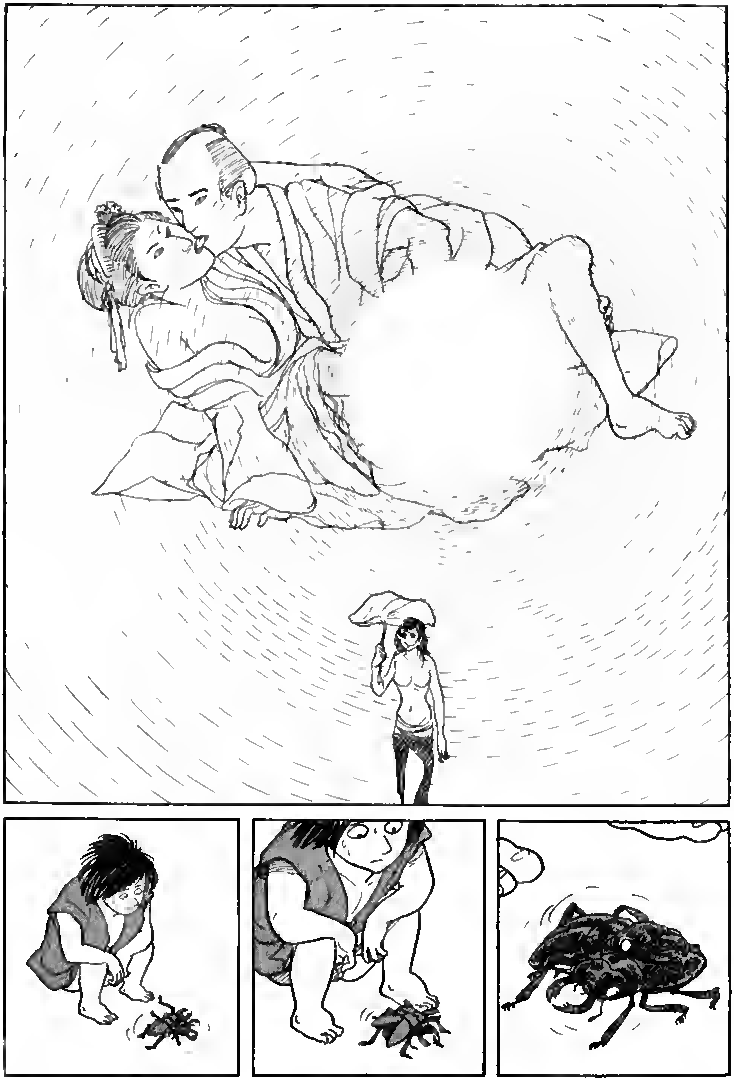

Yeah
Put some wine in a bottle for me I'll be taking it home

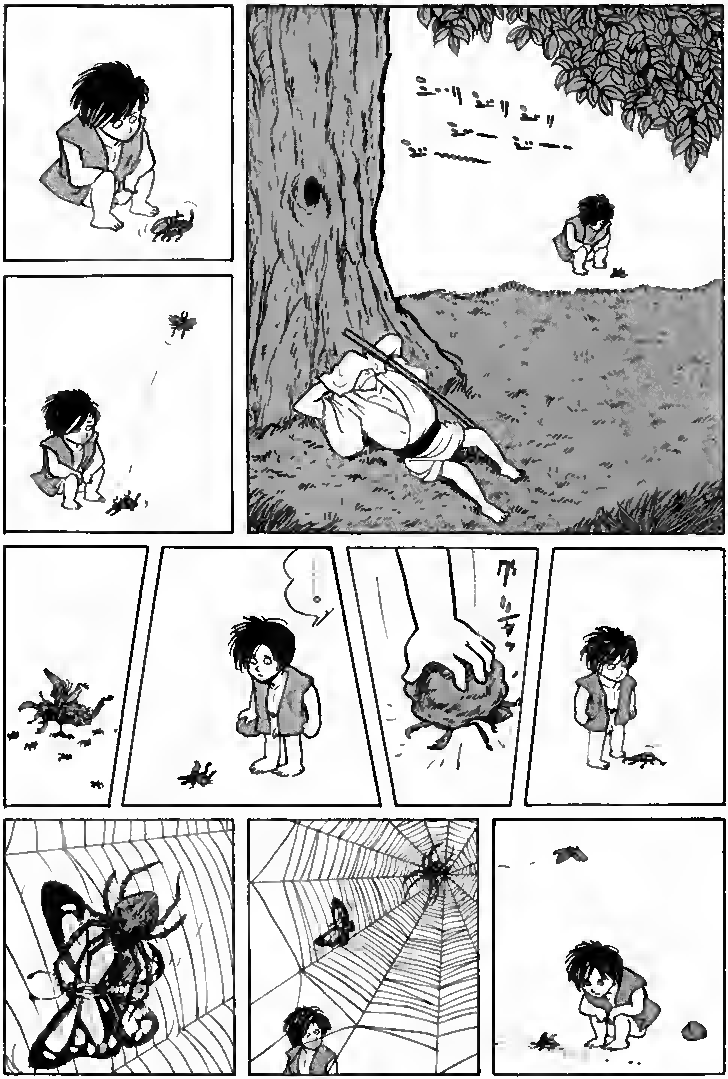

Here's some money
I got plenty of money to spare
From now on, that is... Hehehe-hehe...

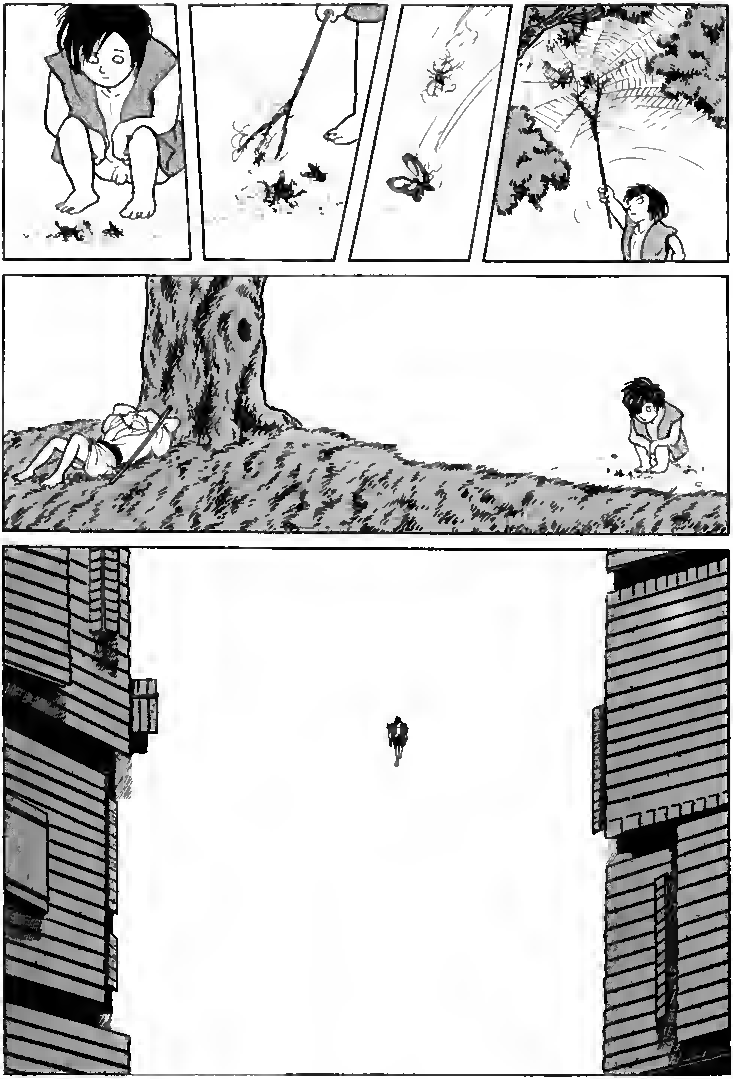
Oh, Seikichi. You seen Yasuke?
N-No... I haven't
You there, Yasuke?
Yasuke?
That's strange.. He still hasn't come back yet?
Sei-kichi!!!
M-My lady!!

This is .. the hundred ryo to give the ronin this evening.
Don't you worry. We cut off his head... so no one would recognize him, and besides, the one who killed him was...
Seikichi, you can't go around looking so jittery!!
You think that'll be enough for him!?
Do you expect .. the ronin to be satisfied with a hundred ryo?
B-But this is ..!!
Could you... stand for that!?
I fear .. that he's thinking... of sinking his teeth deep into us... and wringing everything he can get out of us for the rest of our lives.
...Ahh!!

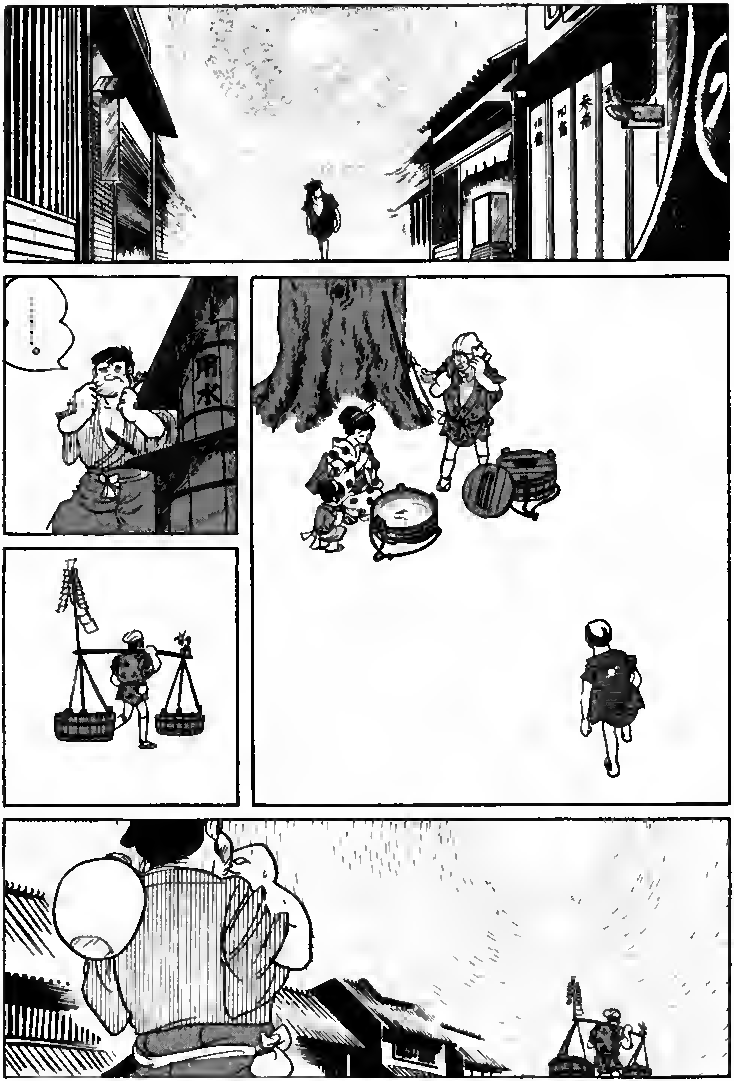
When you give him the money... as soon as you have the chance .. stab him!!
Yes, you must kill him!!
I-I couldn't... I could never do such a...!!
A-Ahhh.. M-M-My lady!!
Ur-rgh!!
Seikichi, don't you want Me. and this store?
You will do anything For Me..
Yes, you can!!
.Sei-kichi!!

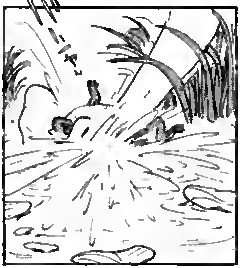


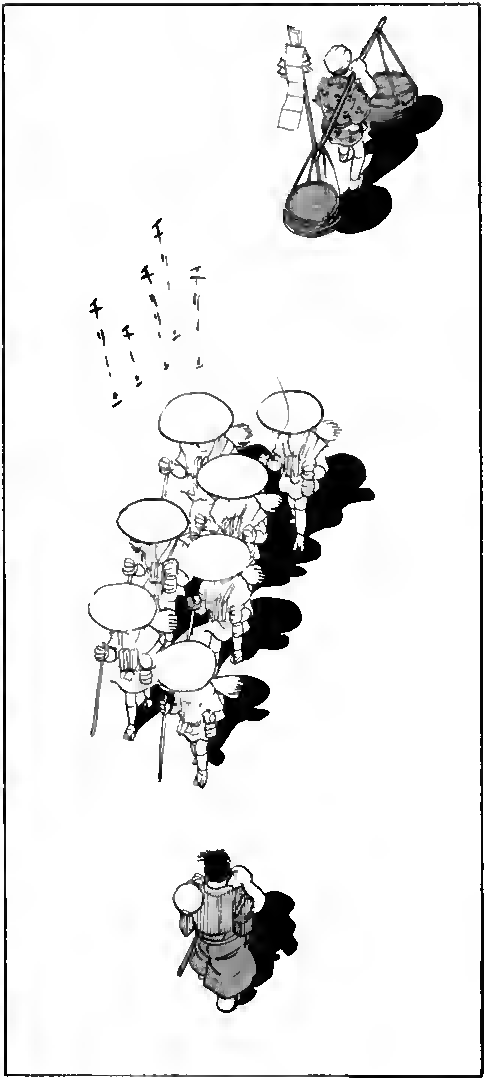




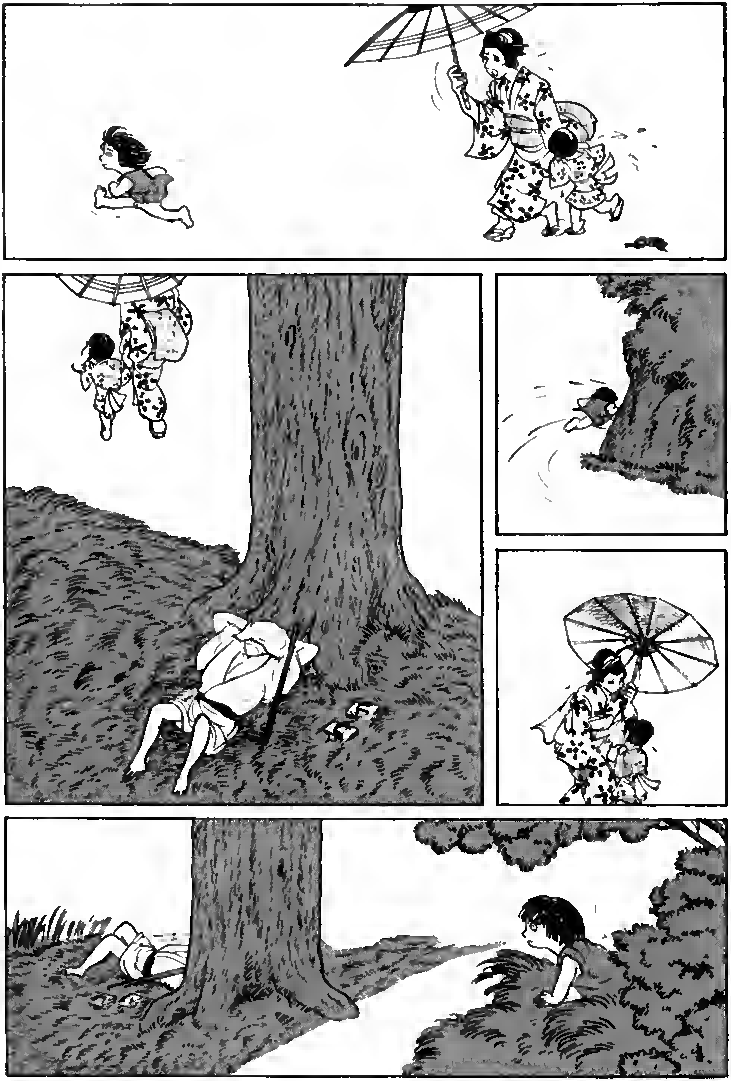
氷菓子

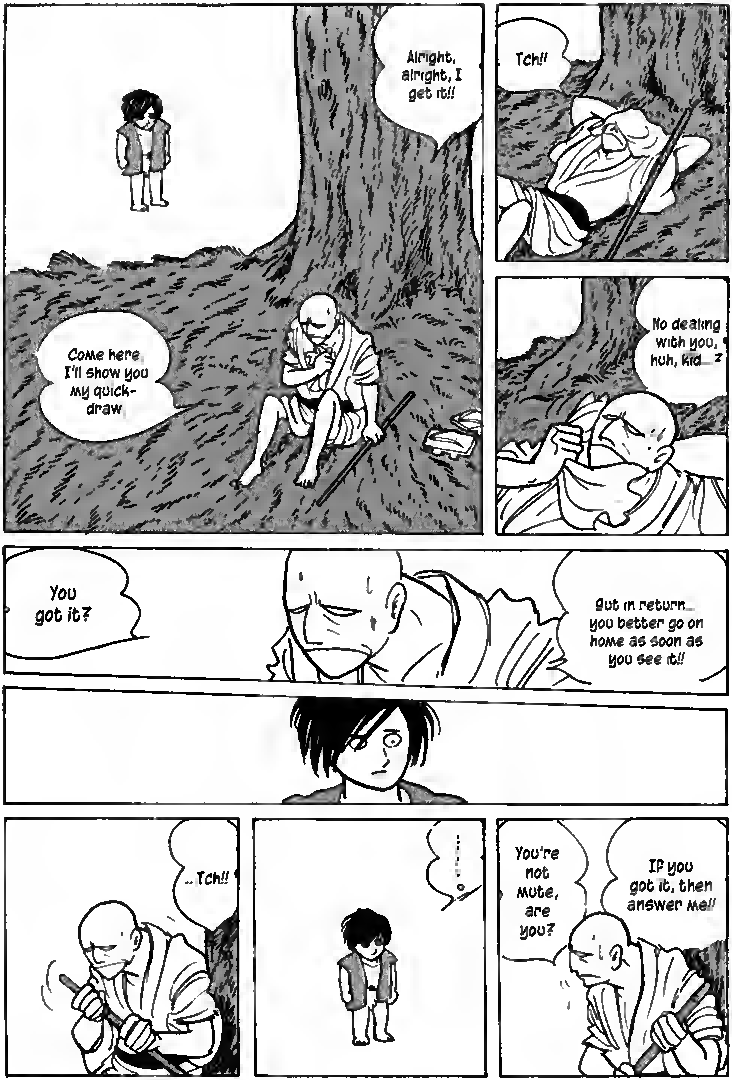

……。
用水




チリーン
チリーン
チーン
チリーン

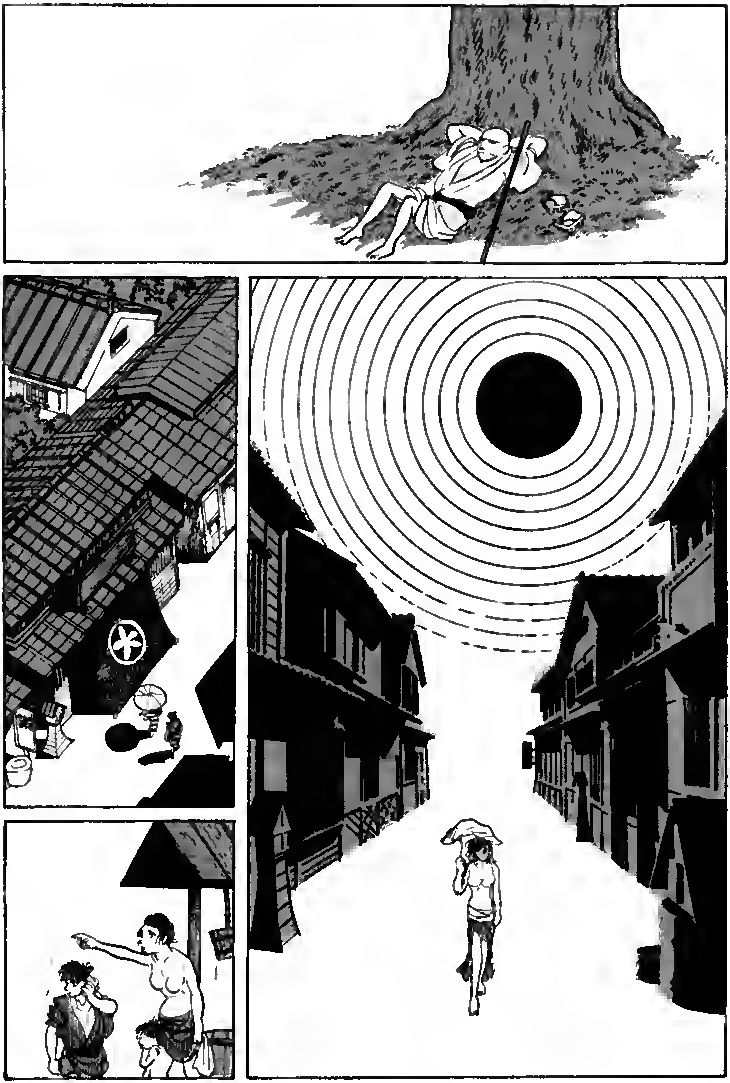
ビィーナ
ビィーナ

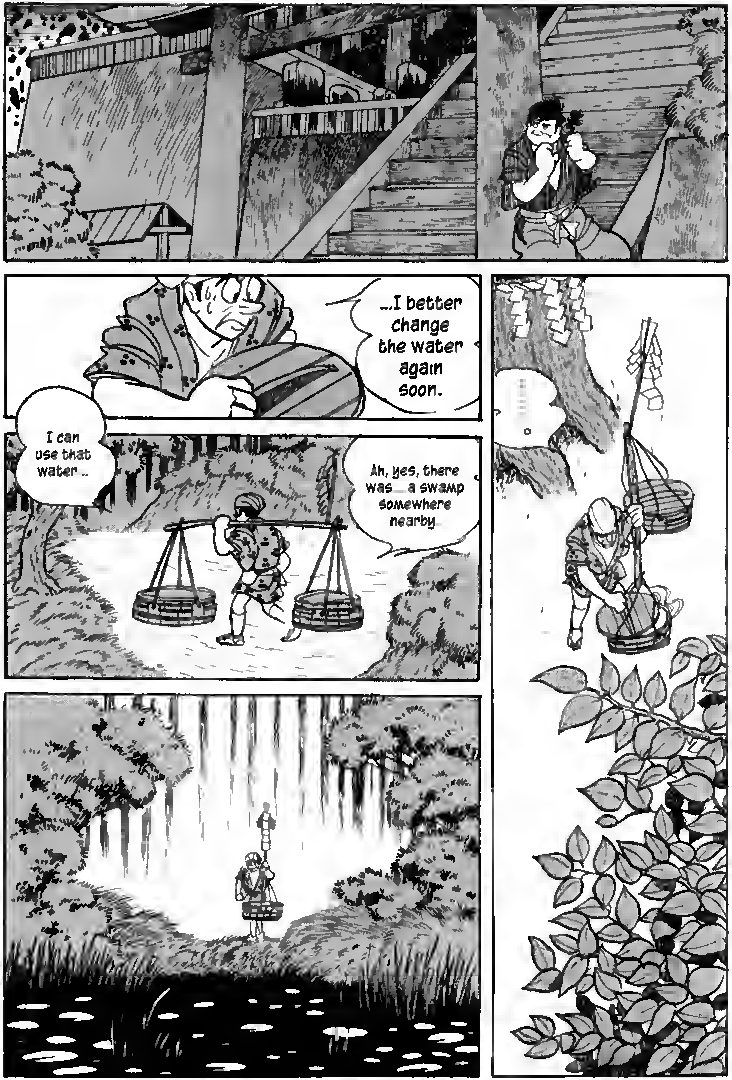



Alright, alright, I get it!!
Come here. I'll show you my quick-draw.
Tch!!
No dealing with you, huh, kid... z
You got it?
But in return... you better go on home as soon as you see it!!
...Tch!!
.....?
You're not mute, are you?
If you got it, then answer me!!

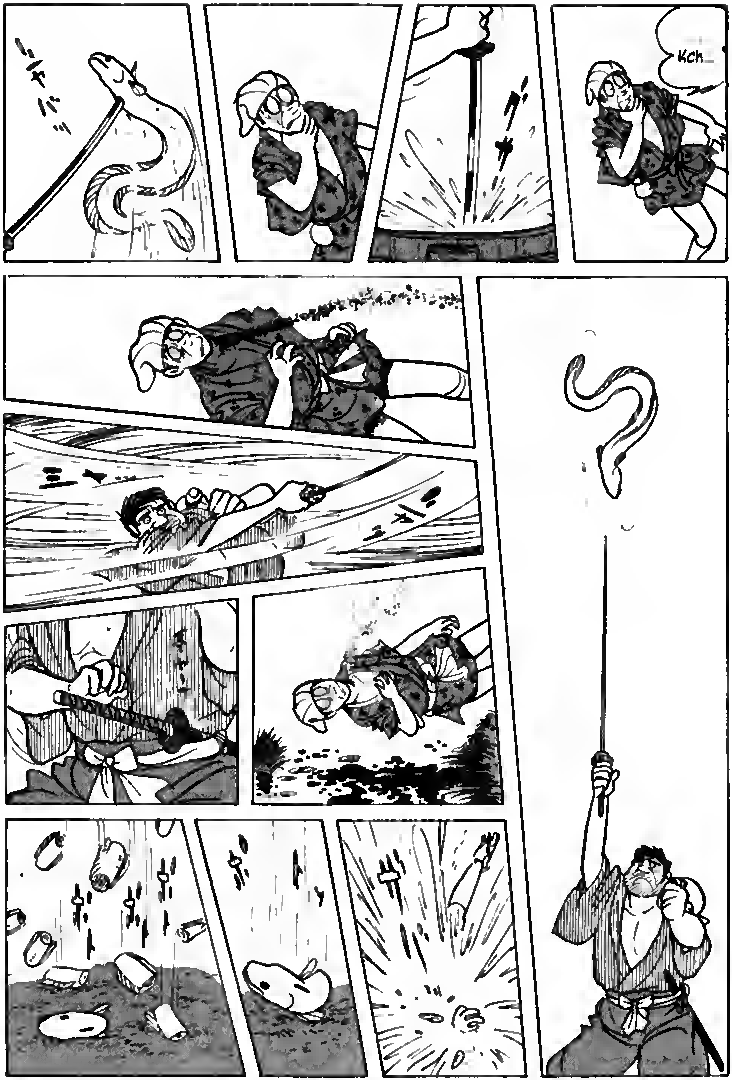
...There, it's done.
That should be enough for you.
Now go home
Get lost!!
Go home!!

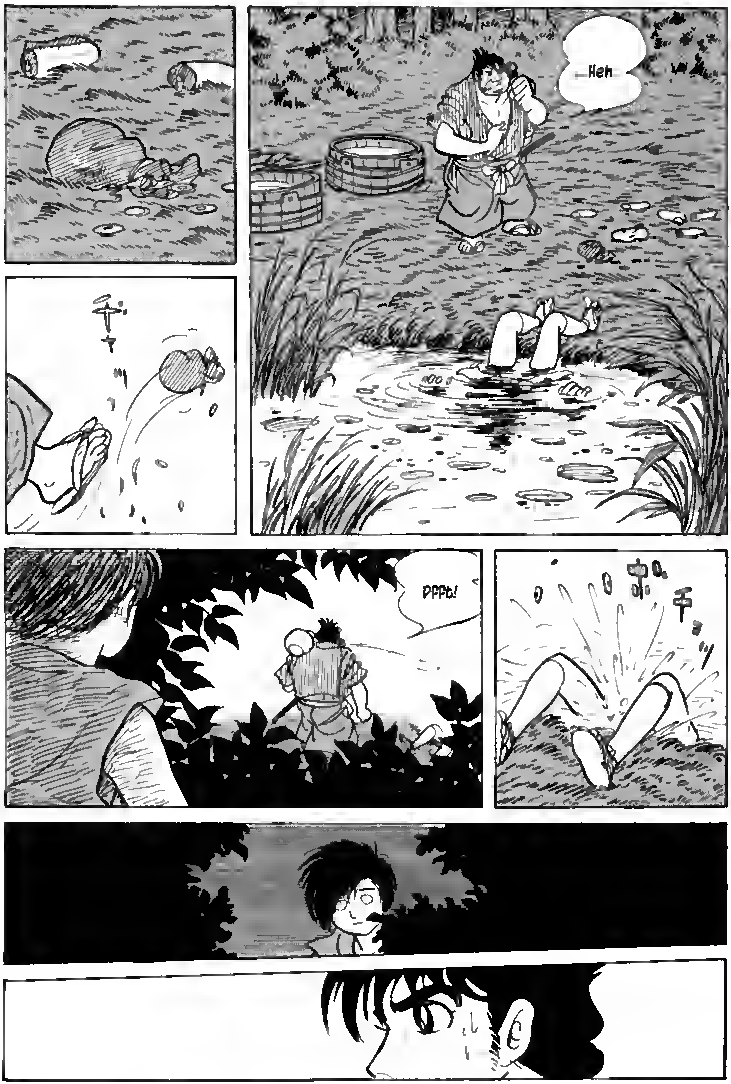
I'm not drawing it!!
No matter how long you wait, I'm not drawing my sword-cane!!
I'm not for show!!
Tch, have it your way.
I don't care anymore!!
!
So he finally left. Good riddance.
Heh. hehe...

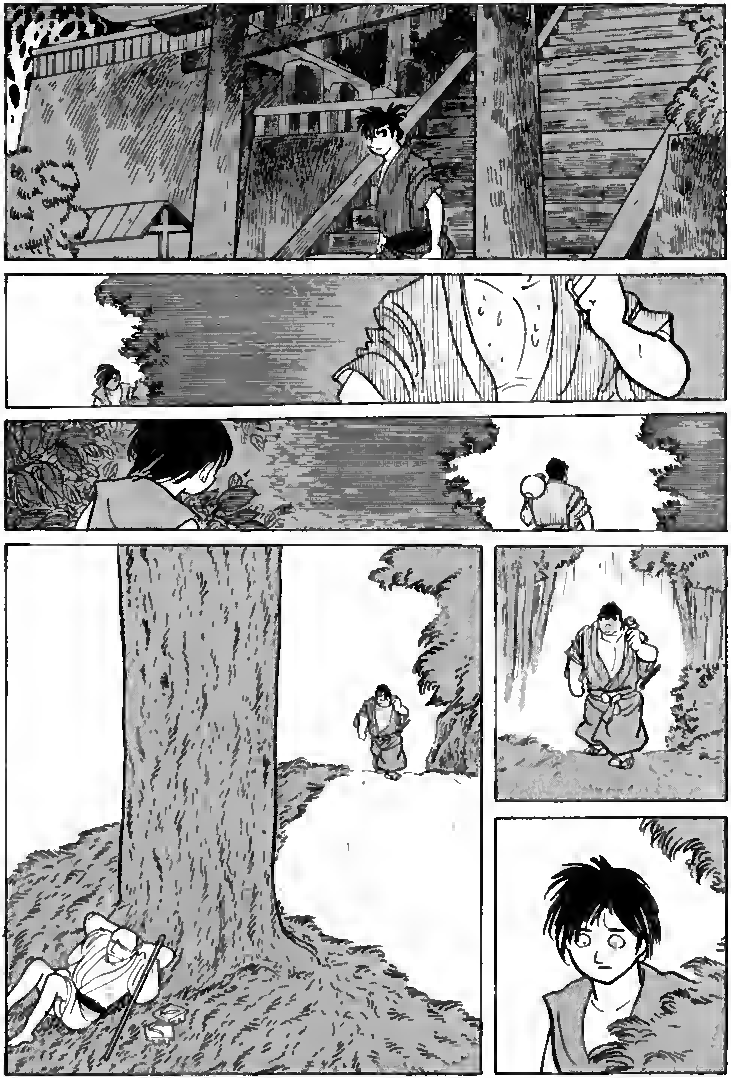


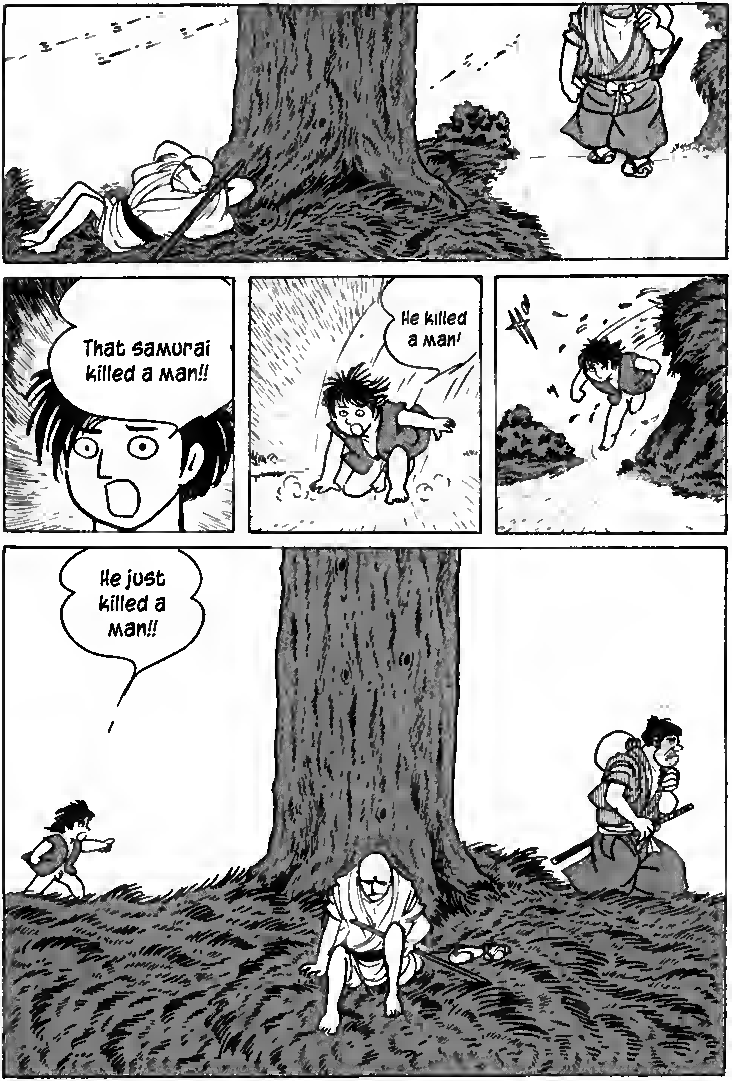

...I better change the water again soon.
I can use that water...
Ah, yes, there was... a swamp somewhere nearby...

Hmm!?
This water's nice and cool.
Just you wait, I'm gonna give you some cold water.
Hehe
Y-You're!?
Im

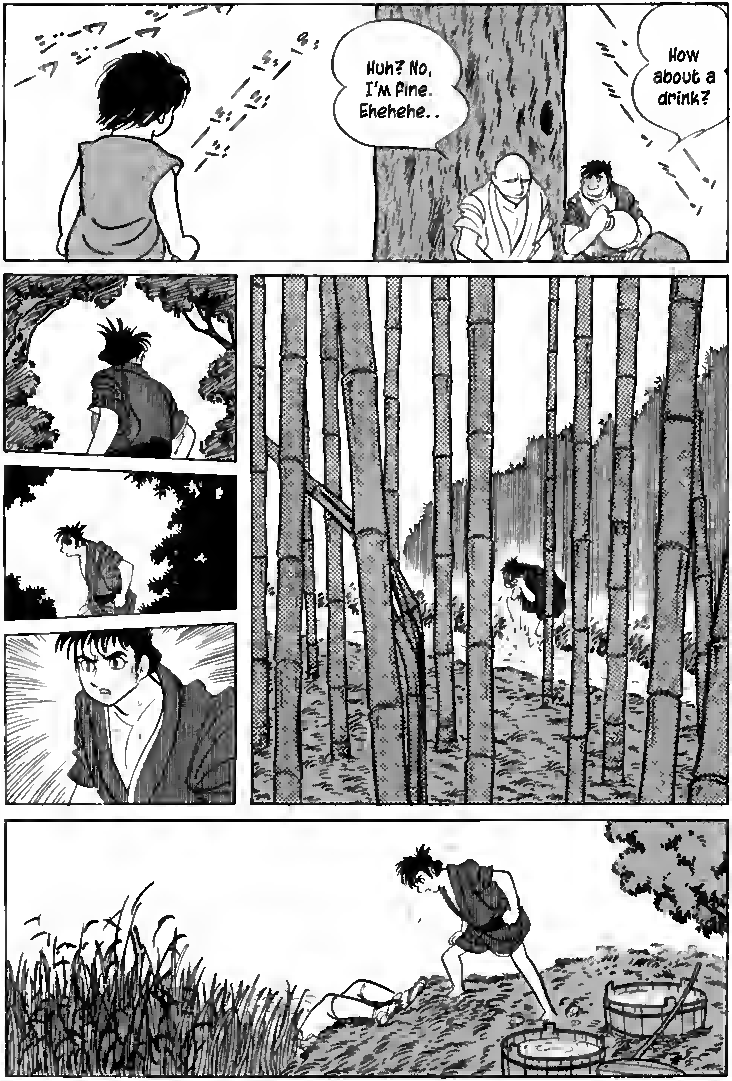

ヒュン
Kch_

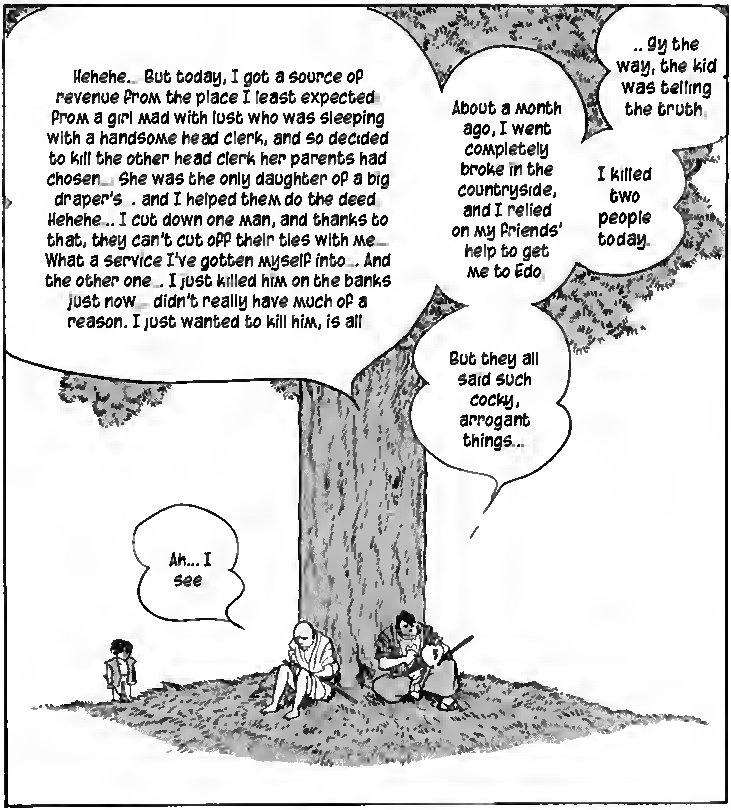

Heh.
PPPb!

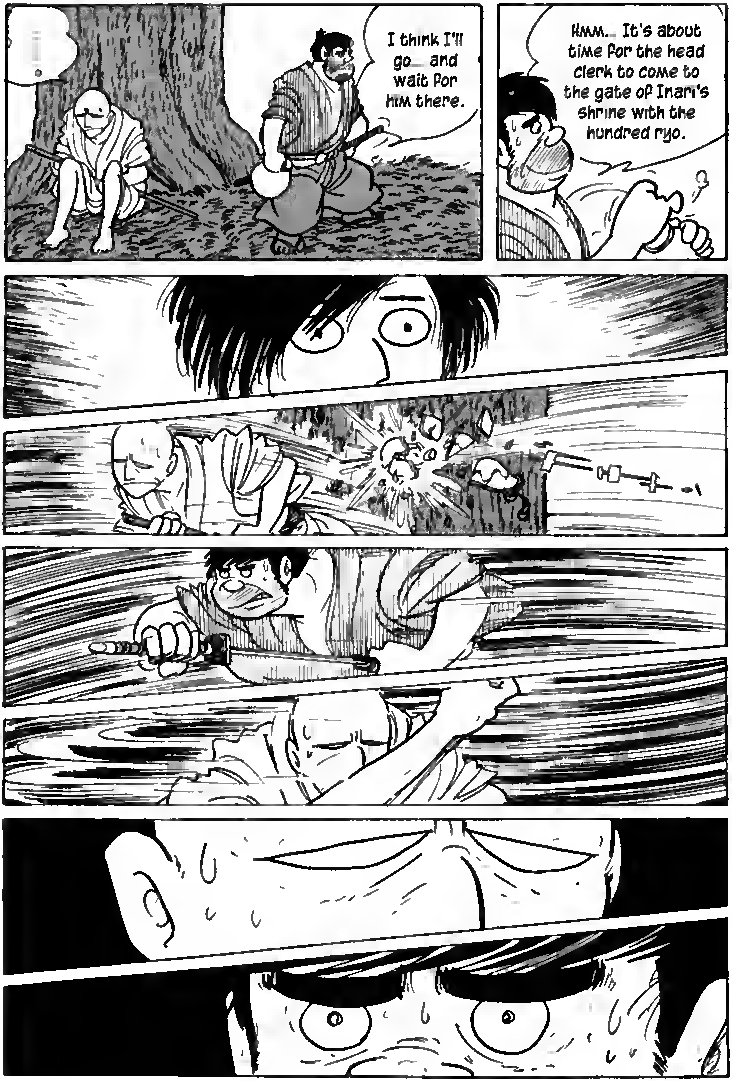



That samurai killed a man!!
He killed a man!
He just killed a man!!

Heh... hehe...
Eh... hehe...
Sure is hot out, masseur
But... Heave-ho... It's nice and cool here.
Guess I'll... have myself a little rest
.....
Yeah... You said it...

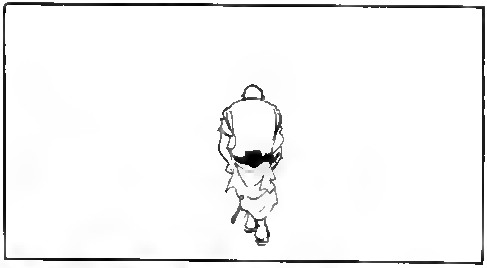

Huh? No, I'm fine. Ehehehe..
How about a drink?

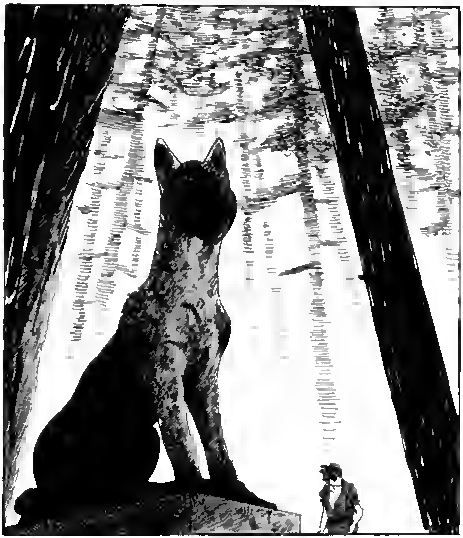

Hehehe... But today, I got a source of revenue from the place I least expected from a girl mad with lust who was sleeping with a handsome head clerk, and so decided to kill the other head clerk her parents had chosen... She was the only daughter of a big draper's . and I helped them do the deed. Hehehe... I cut down one man, and thanks to that, they can't cut off their ties with me... What a service I've gotten myself into... And the other one .. I just killed him on the banks just now... didn't really have much of a reason. I just wanted to kill him, is all
About a month ago, I went completely broke in the countryside, and I relied on my friends' help to get me to Edo
..By the way, the kid was telling the truth.
I killed two people today.
But they all said such cocky, arrogant things...
Ah... I see


I think I'll go... and wait for him there.
Hmm... It's about time for the head clerk to come to the gate of Inari's shrine with the hundred ryo.

...That should be enough for you, kid.
Kid..?

...I figured it was a samurai based on the fatal wound... so I asked around in the area of the crime scene.. and pursued him to here...
..So that's what happened.
But I couldn't solve the mystery of the stone covered in hair and blood clots that must have been used to bludgeon him.
Ichi!!
So it was the daughter and head clerk of a draper's...
Well then, I'm going to go wait at Inari's shrine...
..A fox waits outside the gate I suppose.

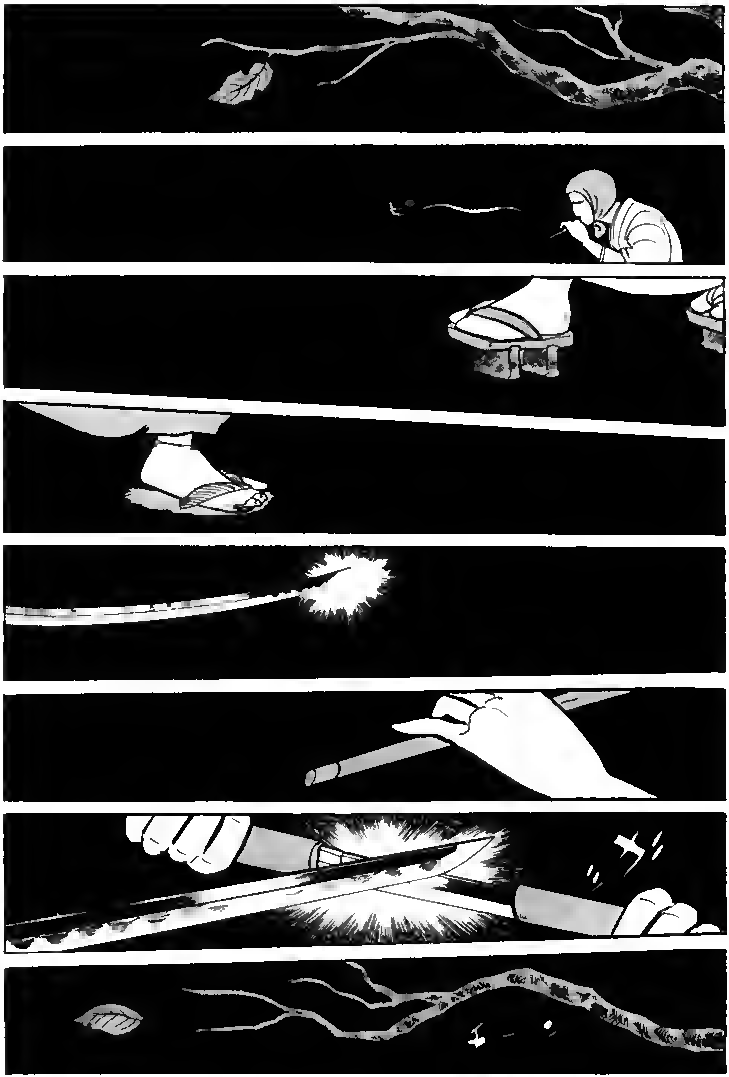




August 1968: "Mad Dog" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 40
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND
HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE
BY TROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHŌTARŌ

# Chapter 41: Starling



Eek!!
Hold it.
Ahh... uhh... Waa-augh...
P-Please, spare me!
I... have a child... w-who's soon going to celebrate the Seven-Five-Three...
J-Just a random cutthroat!
I-I...I didn't know, honestly.
Or did you attack me... knowing that I'm the masseur Matsuno-Ichi?
Are you just a random cutthroat?

TL NOTE: A FESTIVAL HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, AS A RITE OF PASSAGE FOR GIRLS ABED THREE AND SEVEN, AND BOYS AGED THREE AND FIVE

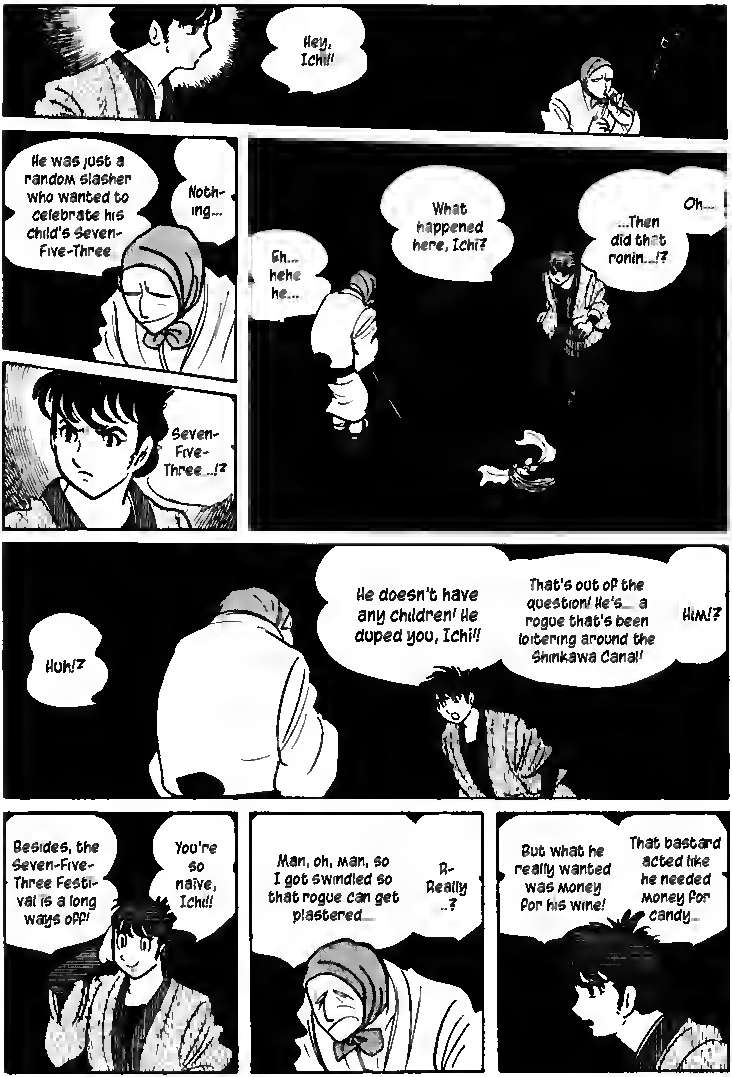
Hmm...
So I was at such a loss, I lashed out!!
S-So I wanted to buy my child a Millennium candy stick... but I couldn't, since I'm just an unemployed wanderer...

That's my pay for the night... It ain't all that much... but you should be able to buy two or three sticks of candy

Were you planning on giving your children candy coated in blood?
The Seven-Three-Five Festival, eh?

Don't even think of doing something so stupid again.
Now listen, ronin.
I-I'm in your debt!!

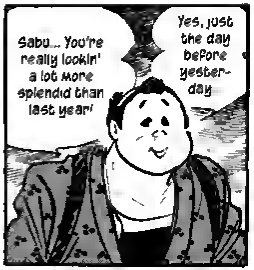
Who's there...

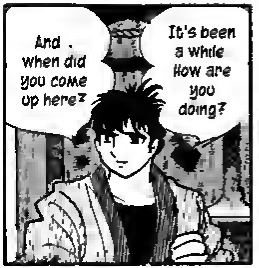

Hey, Ichi!!
Nothing...
He was just a random slasher who wanted to celebrate his child's Seven-Five-Three
Seven-Five-Three...!?
What happened here, Ichi?
Eh... hehe he...
...Then did that ronin...!?
Oh...
Huh!?
He doesn't have any children! He duped you, Ichi!!
That's out of the question! He's... a rogue that's been loitering around the Shinkawa Canal!
Him!?
You're so naive, Ichi!!
Besides, the Seven-Five-Three Festival is a long ways off!
Man, oh, man, so I got swindled so that rogue can get plastered...
R-Really...?
But what he really wanted was money for his wine!
That bastard acted like he needed money for candy...

And I was hoping to use that money to warm me up with some wine myself...
Ahh, now I've gone and wasted my money.
Yeah, now that you mention it...
I'll bet a man as old as you can't sleep without some wine in you, huh, Ichi?
Well, with how chilly it is...
Hehehe...
Tohoho... A thief-taker's subordinate is buying me a drink...
Guess Ichi the masseur is down outta luck!!
I have just about enough money for that... so it'll be my treat tonight!!
Ahehe!
Just count on me!
...Well, my eyes were outta luck to begin with.
Aha-haha...
Haha-he...

伏見屋
Hey, come on in!
We got a fresh stock of Fujimi wine that came in just now!

Yes, thank you very much ..
Well, see you later!
Hehehe .. Don't try and patronize me!

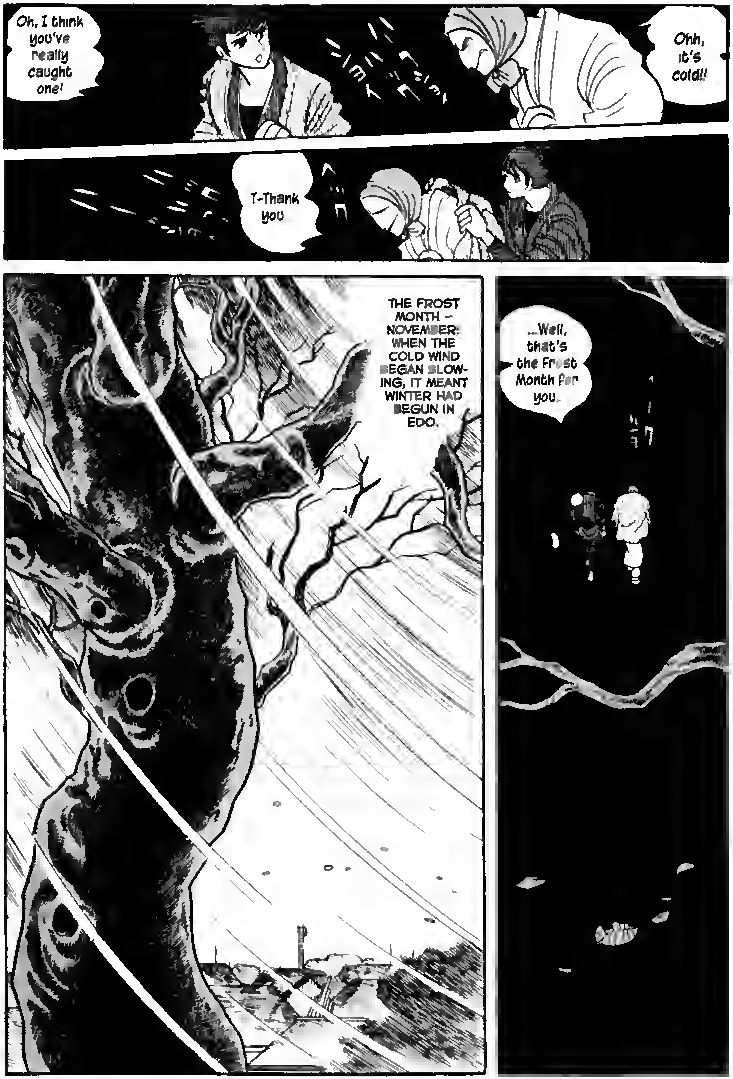

Sabu... You're really lookin' a lot more splendid than last year!
Yes, just the day before yesterday

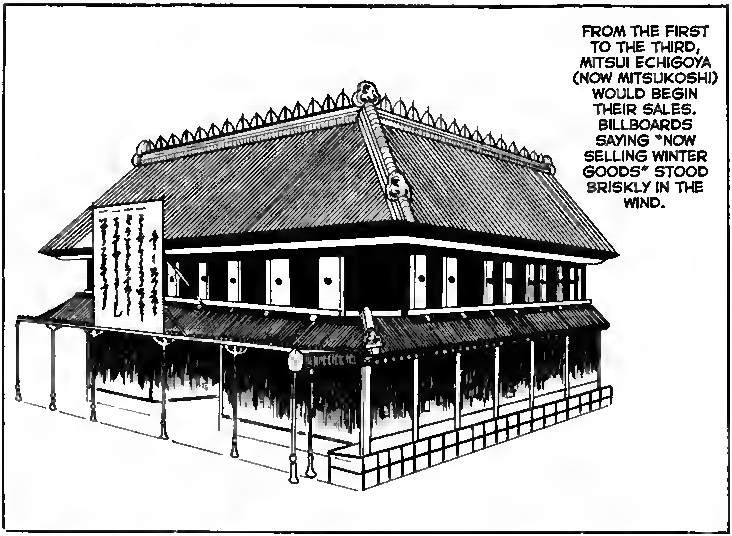

And . When did you come up here?
It's been a while How are you doing?

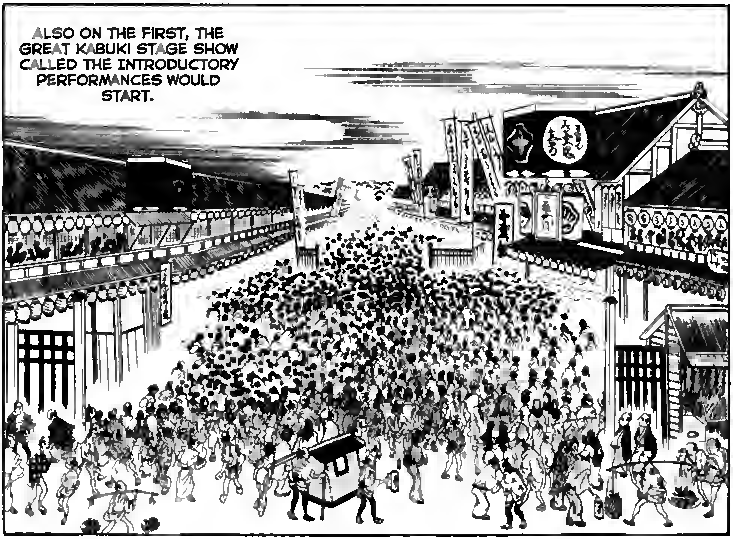
Ahh, Sabu!
Hey, Mohei!

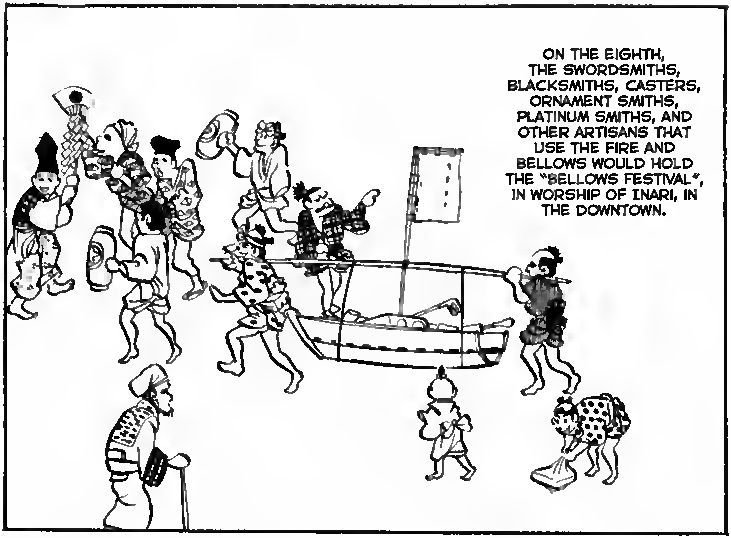
TL NOTE: SLANG FOR A COUNTRY BUMPKIN

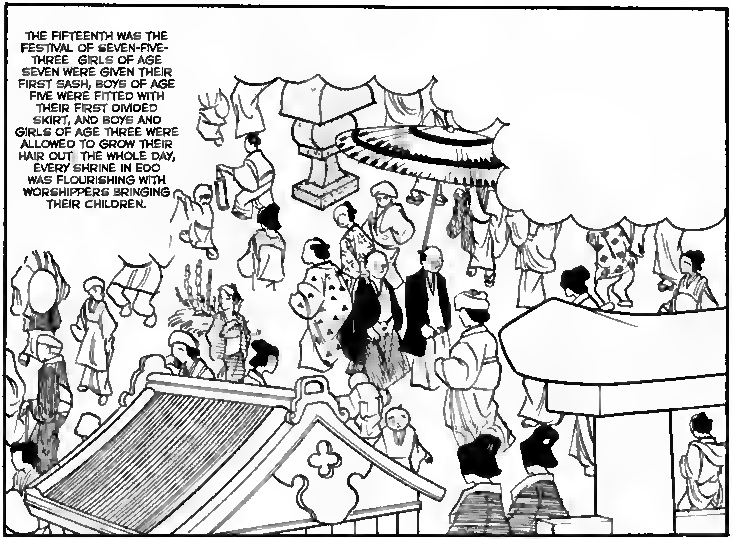
Take care... and good luck!!
And these days, he comes back and forth from the sticks of Shinano to work
Ahh, a starling!
...You caught a cold?
Heh...hehe, my purse is just a little desolate...
Oh! You saw an acquaintance in the bar, Sabu?
Yeah, his name's Mohei...
Heh...hehe... Good wine makes good blood... as they say!!
Alright then, let's just get back to the longhouse as soon as we can... and get this warmed up...
Hehehe... I don't hear you complaining often, Ichi
Even going as far as impersonating a beggar!!
But that said... without money... ronin he may have been, a samurai can really stoop to such low depths...
When they're pushed to the wall... They'll do just about anything to survive...
Hehehe... Samurai are people, too...

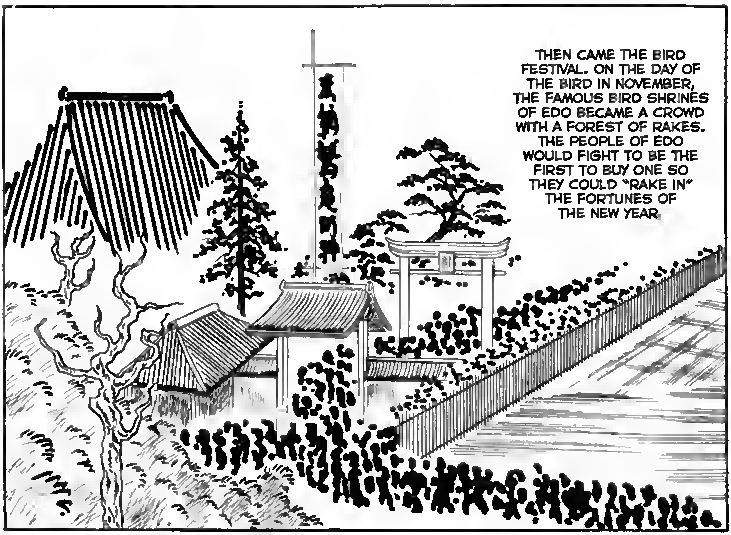

Oh, I think you've really caught one!
Ohh, it's cold!!
T-Thank you
THE FROST MONTH -- NOVEMBER: WHEN THE COLD WIND BEGAN BLOWING, IT MEANT WINTER HAD BEGUN IN EDO.
...Well, that's the Frost Month for you...

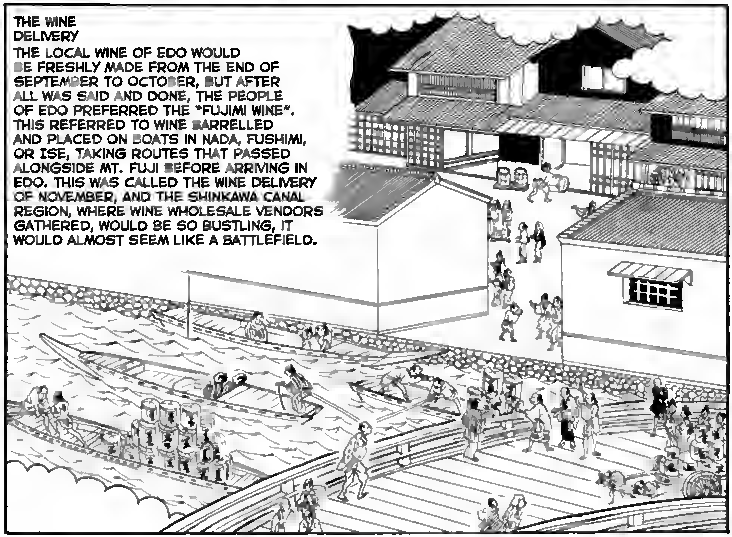

FROM THE FIRST TO THE THIRD, MITSUI ECHIGOYA (NOW MITSUKOSHI) WOULD BEGIN THEIR SALES. BILLBOARDS SAYING "NOW SELLING WINTER GOODS" STOOD BRISKLY IN THE WIND.

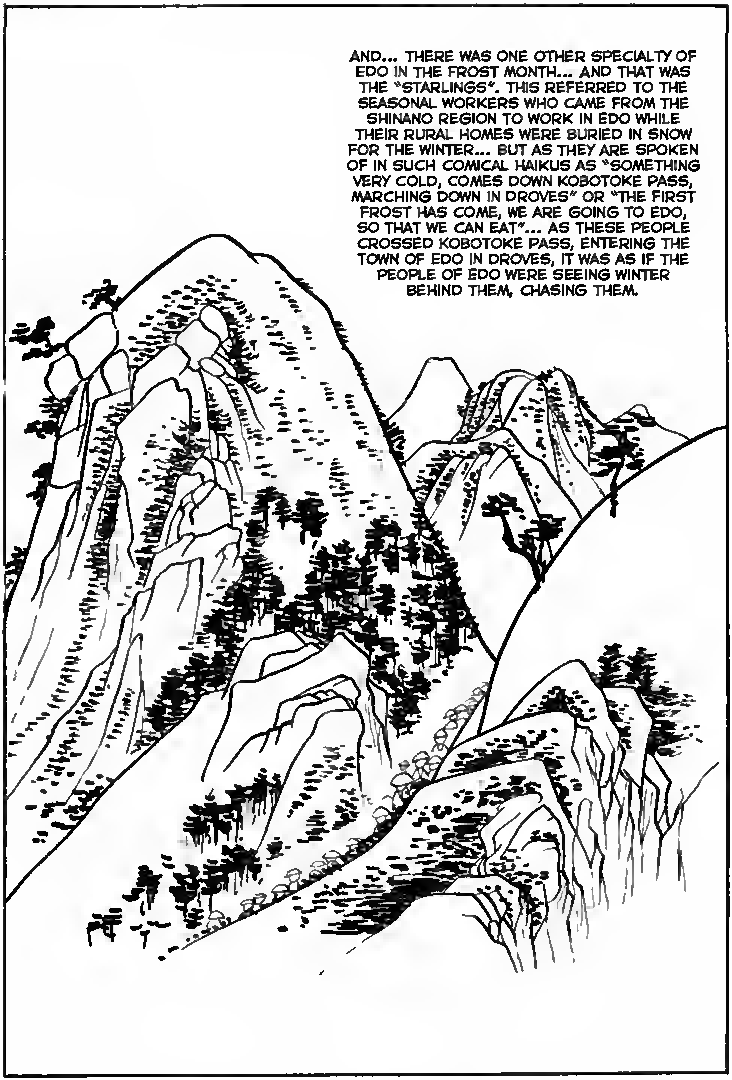

ALSO ON THE FIRST, THE GREAT KABUKI STAGE SHOW CALLED THE INTRODUCTORY PERFORMANCES WOULD START.

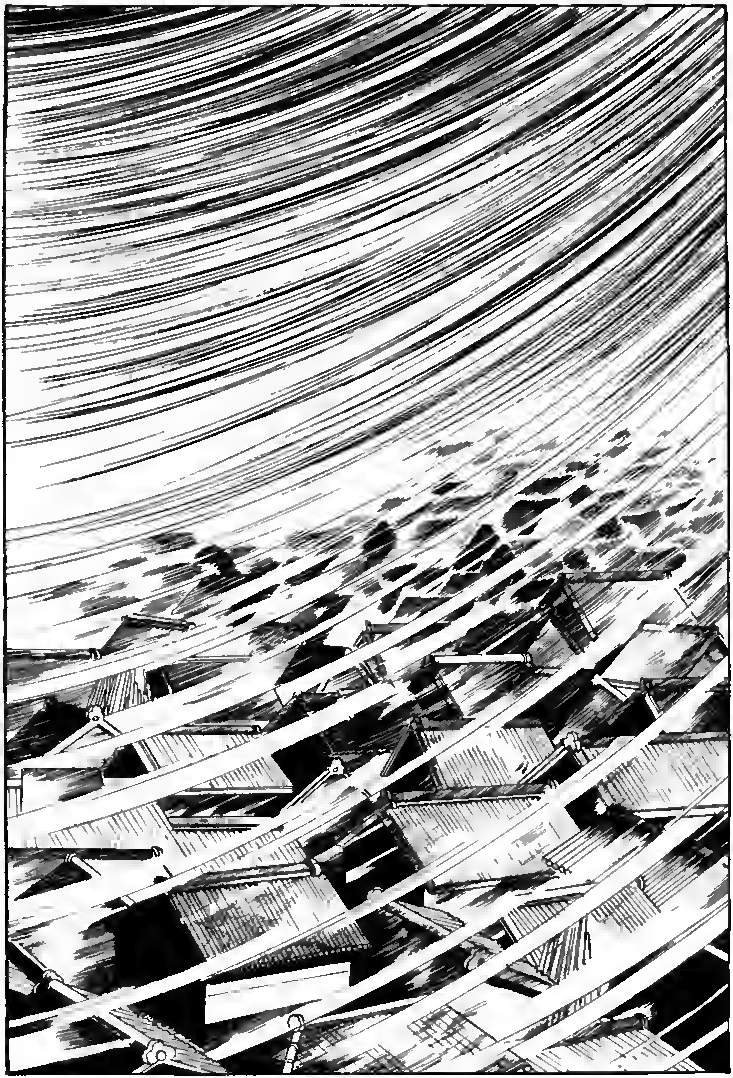

ON THE EIGHTH, THE SWORDSMITHS, BLACKSMITHS, CASTERS, ORNAMENT SMITHS, PLATINUM SMITHS, AND OTHER ARTISANS THAT USE THE FIRE AND BELLOWS WOULD HOLD THE "BELLOWS FESTIVAL", IN WORSHIP OF INARI, IN THE DOWNTOWN.


THE FIFTEENTH WAS THE FESTIVAL OF SEVEN-FIVE-THREE. GIRLS OF AGE SEVEN WERE GIVEN THEIR FIRST SASH, BOYS OF AGE FIVE WERE FITTED WITH THEIR FIRST DIVIDED SKIRT, AND BOYS AND GIRLS OF AGE THREE WERE ALLOWED TO GROW THEIR HAIR OUT. THE WHOLE DAY, EVERY SHRINE IN EDO WAS FLOURISHING WITH WORSHIPPERS BRINGING THEIR CHILDREN.

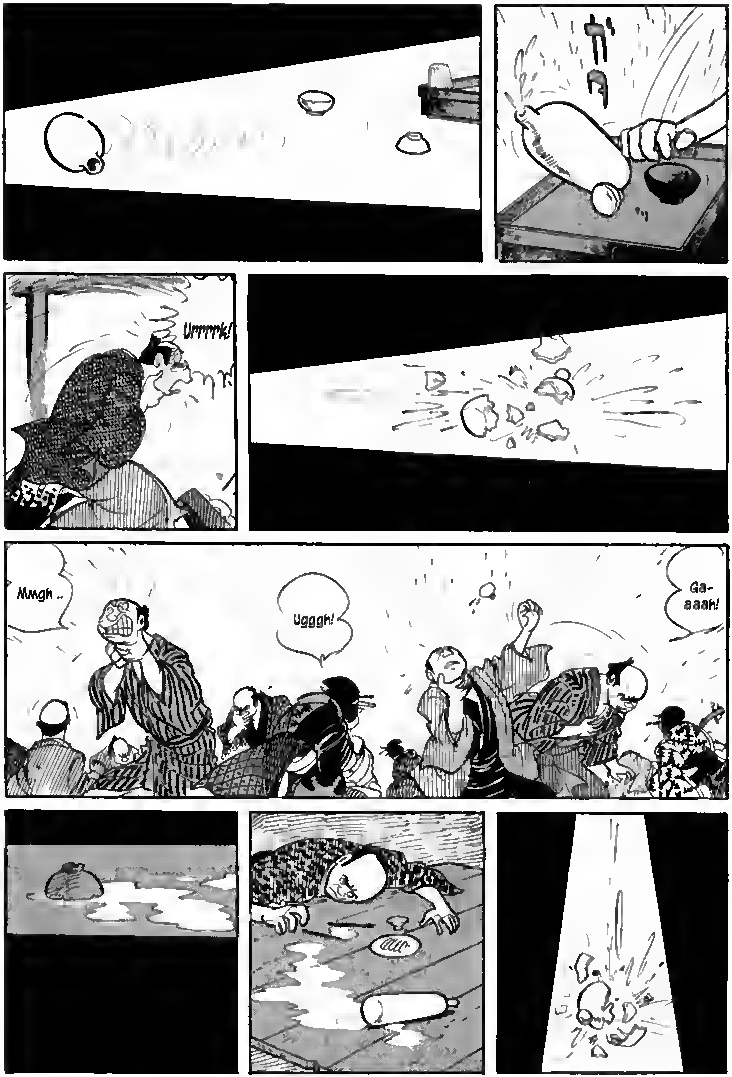

THEN CAME THE BIRD FESTIVAL. ON THE DAY OF THE BIRD IN NOVEMBER, THE FAMOUS BIRD SHRINES OF EDO BECAME A CROWD WITH A FOREST OF RAKES. THE PEOPLE OF EDO WOULD FIGHT TO BE THE FIRST TO BUY ONE SO THEY COULD "RAKE IN" THE FORTUNES OF THE NEW YEAR.

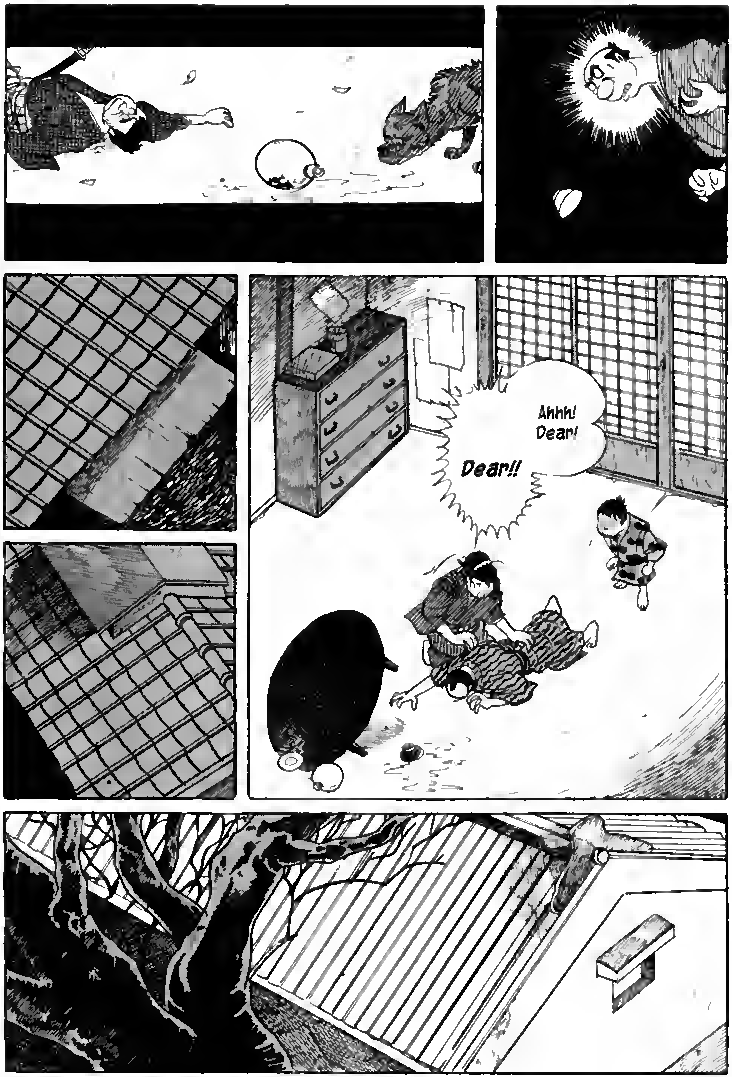

THE WINE DELIVERY
THE LOCAL WINE OF EDO WOULD BE FRESHLY MADE FROM THE END OF SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER. BUT AFTER ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, THE PEOPLE OF EDO PREFERRED THE "FUJIMI WINE". THIS REFERRED TO WINE BARRELLED AND PLACED ON BOATS IN NADA, FUSHIMI, OR ISE, TAKING ROUTES THAT PASSED ALONGSIDE MT. FUJI BEFORE ARRIVING IN EDO. THIS WAS CALLED THE WINE DELIVERY OF NOVEMBER, AND THE SHINKAWA CANAL REGION, WHERE WINE WHOLESALE VENDORS GATHERED, WOULD BE SO BUSTLING, IT WOULD ALMOST SEEM LIKE A BATTLEFIELD.

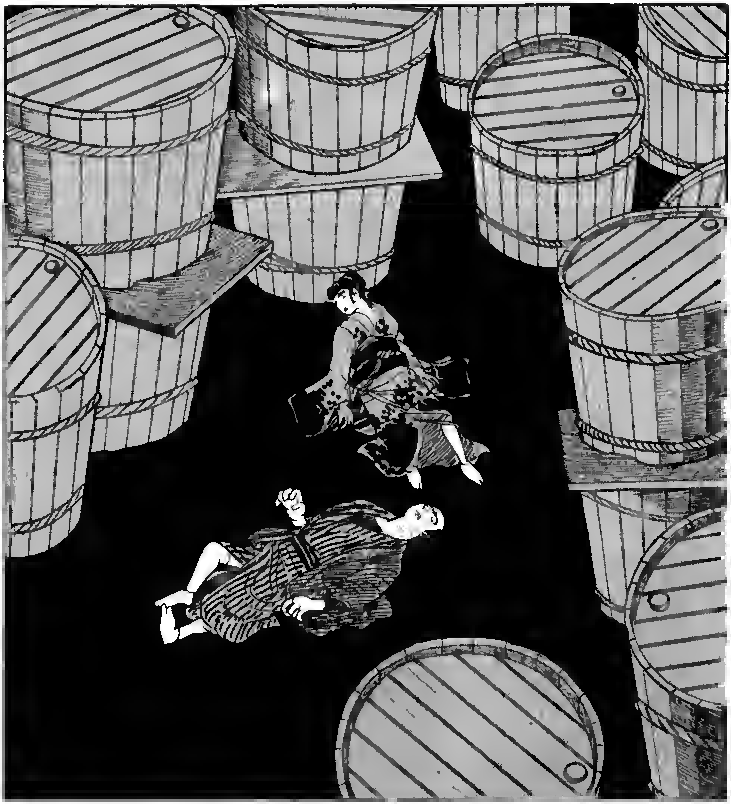

AND... THERE WAS ONE OTHER SPECIALTY OF EDO IN THE FROST MONTH... AND THAT WAS THE "STARLINGS". THIS REFERRED TO THE SEASONAL WORKERS WHO CAME FROM THE SHINANO REGION TO WORK IN EDO WHILE THEIR RURAL HOMES WERE BURIED IN SNOW FOR THE WINTER... BUT AS THEY ARE SPOKEN OF IN SUCH COMICAL HAIKUS AS "SOMETHING VERY COLD, COMES DOWN KOBOTOKE PASS, MARCHING DOWN IN DROVES" OR "THE FIRST FROST HAS COME, WE ARE GOING TO EDO, SO THAT WE CAN EAT"... AS THESE PEOPLE CROSSED KOBOTOKE PASS, ENTERING THE TOWN OF EDO IN DROVES, IT WAS AS IF THE PEOPLE OF EDO WERE SEEING WINTER BEHIND THEM, CHASING THEM.

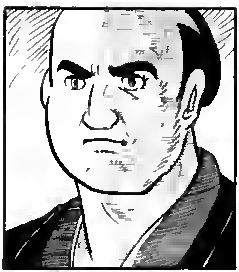


つるや呉服店
はやし
いわお
Mm-Mgh...
D-Dear!?
Urr-rgh!
よしちゃん
おとし
W-What is the Matter!?
Ggh -
A...Aaough..
Ugh!!


Urrrrrk!
Mmgh ..
Ugggh!
Ga-
aaah!
Uuh..


Ahhh!
Dear!
Dear!!



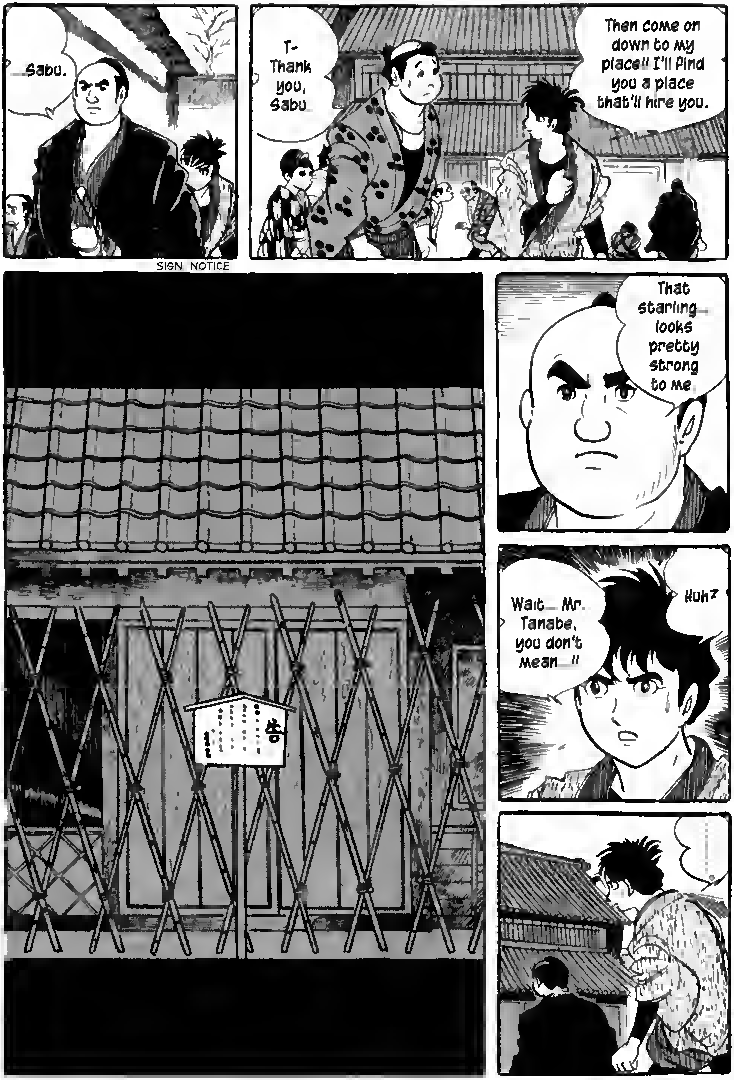


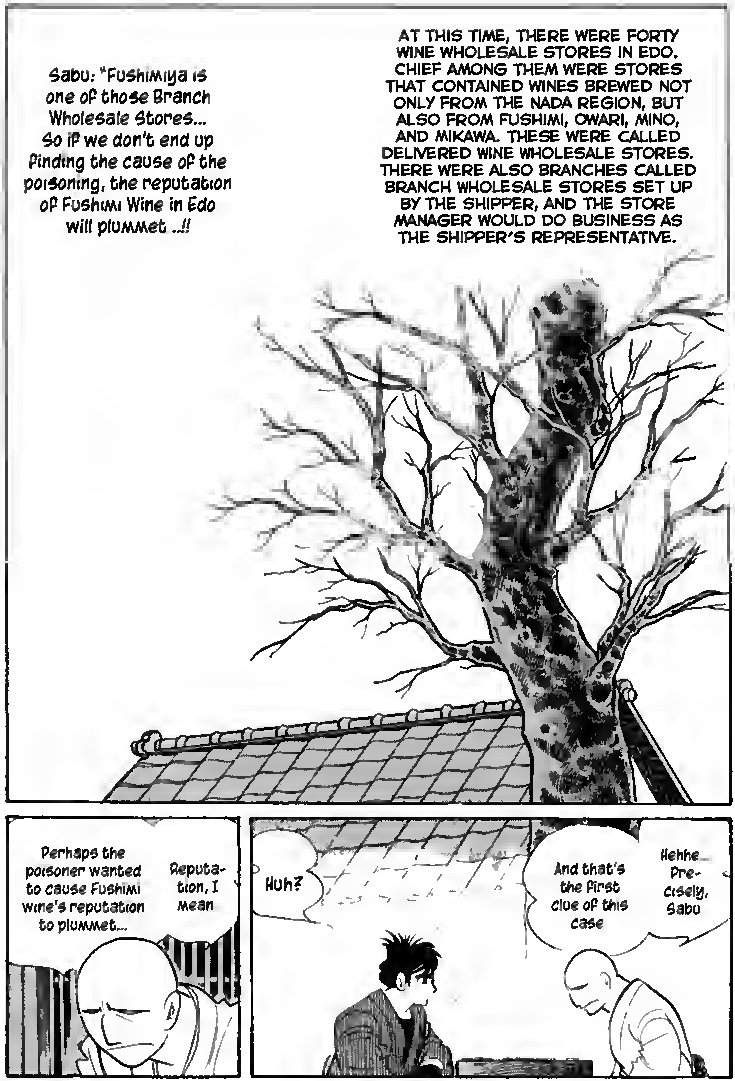
They were both strangled to death... by someone with incredible strength...
Yes...
...What do you think, Sabu?
Is that all...?
The poisoned wine that's killed fourteen people so far came from this very store...
And... inside the barrel storehouse, both the manager's daughter and the boatman who delivered the wine were murdered...
Don't you think these murders may be connected?
Yes, probably...
But I haven't got a clue how...

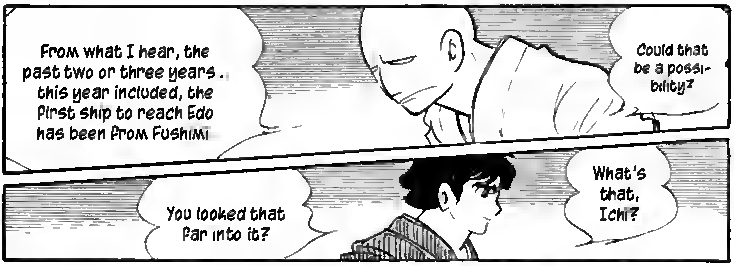
Your daughter's one thing... but fourteen innocent people have died from the wine sold at your store!!
Now, now, Fushimiya... We're just about to investigate that now.
S-Sir Official, W-Who... Who killed my daughter...!?
T-The perpetrator... must have killed my daughter... then put the poison in the wine barrels!!
Who would do such a thing!?
W-Who would even consider poisoning the wine barrels from his own store ..?
I-I never... even knew about that!!
Doesn't that bother you?
do you have any enemies..?
Fushi-miya,

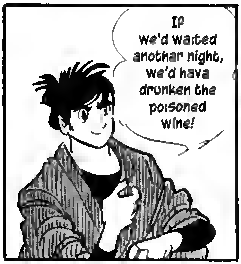
Who was the last one to enter the store-room...?
In other words... when you opened the poisoned barrel...
Well then... When you sold the wine last night...
N-No, I... I've been running a perfectly clean business! I don't remember making any enemies...
Y...Yes, uh... uh... hh...
It was you?
Hmpf!
M... M... Mo..
And your name...!?
Y-Yes, i-i-i-it was... me.
His name is Mohei. He's come from Shinano to work for the winter...
O-Official, sir, this man has a habit of stuttering when he is in panic.

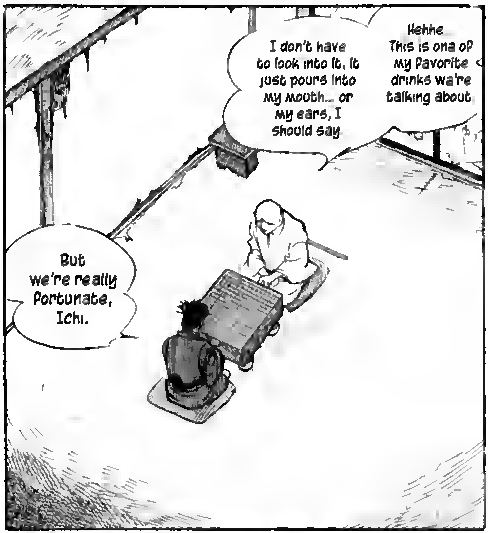
Y-Yes. I... I don't...
Calm down, Mohei... Can you tell me about last night...!?
All I did was carry the wine in...
ha...have a problem talki...ing you...
Yes... This victim went into the storehouse after Mohei...
Which means that it was poisoned ahead of time.. Or before they were taken to the storehouse!!
You're telling me you didn't notice anything strange or out of the ordinary?
.. Cheer up, Mohei!!
But... if you don't get your job back, or you're fired...
But we'll catch the culprit and rescue him in!!
I'm afraid . that the store's gonna be closed until this case is closed...

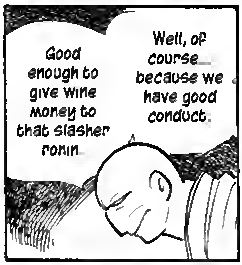

Sabu.
T-Thank you, Sabu.
Then come on down to my place!! I'll find you a place that'll hire you.
SIGN NOTICE
That starling looks pretty strong to me.
Wait... Mr. Tanabe, you don't mean...!!
Huh?

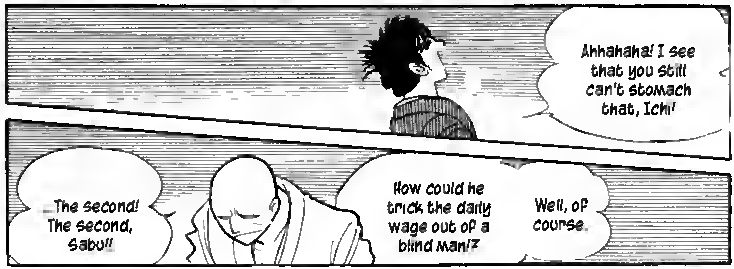

Sabu: "Fushimiya is one of those Branch Wholesale Stores... So if we don't end up finding the cause of the poisoning, the reputation of Fushimi Wine in Edo will plummet ..!!
AT THIS TIME, THERE WERE FORTY WINE WHOLESALE STORES IN EDO. CHIEF AMONG THEM WERE STORES THAT CONTAINED WINES BREWED NOT ONLY FROM THE NADA REGION, BUT ALSO FROM FUSHIMI, OWARI, MINO, AND MIKAWA. THESE WERE CALLED DELIVERED WINE WHOLESALE STORES. THERE WERE ALSO BRANCHES CALLED BRANCH WHOLESALE STORES SET UP BY THE SHIPPER, AND THE STORE MANAGER WOULD DO BUSINESS AS THE SHIPPER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
Perhaps the poisoner wanted to cause Fushimi wine's reputation to plummet...
Reputation, I mean
Huh?
And that's the first clue of this case
Hehhe... Precisely, Sabu

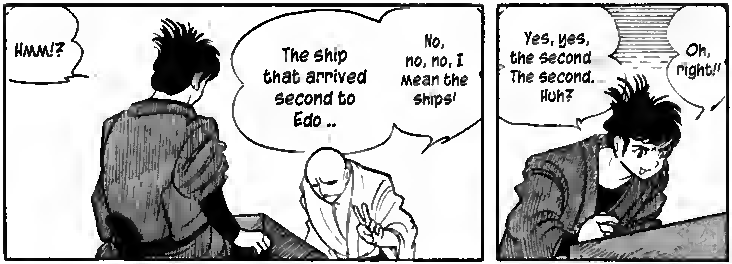

From what I hear, the past two or three years... this year included, the first ship to reach Edo has been from Fushimi
Could that be a possibility?
You looked that far into it?
What's that, Ichi?


If we'd waited another night, we'd have drunken the poisoned wine!


I don't have to look into it. It just pours into my mouth... or my ears, I should say
Hehhe. This is one of my favorite drinks we're talking about
But we're really fortunate, Ichi.

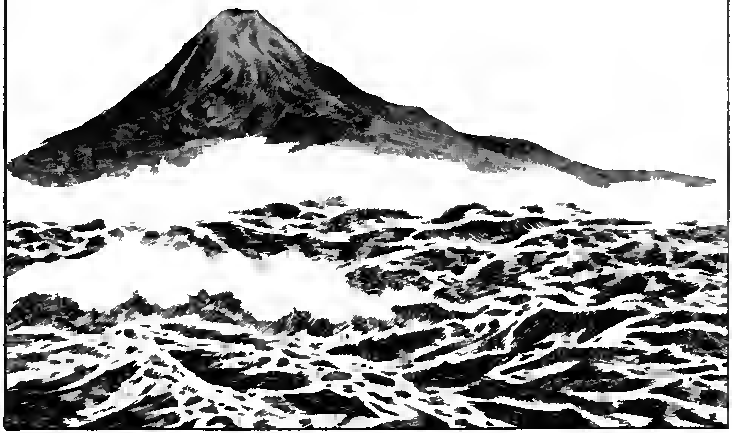

Well, of course... because we have good conduct.
Good enough to give wine money to that slasher ronin.

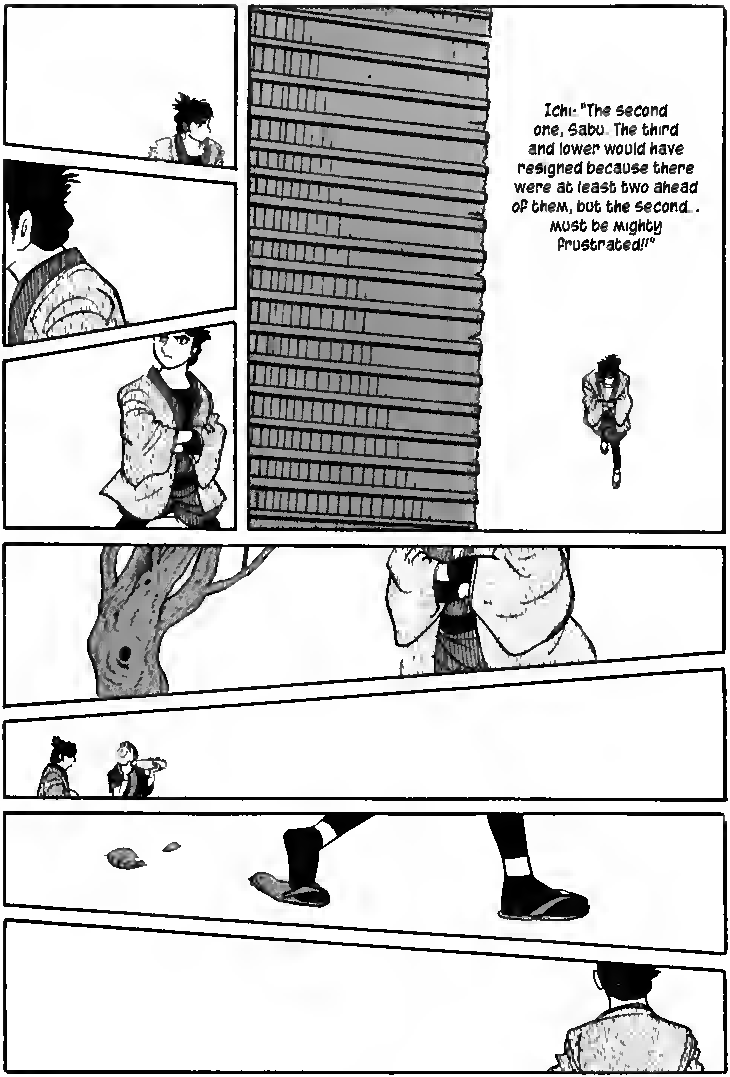

Ahhahaha! I see that you still can't stomach that, Ichi!
Well, of course.
How could he trick the daily wage out of a blind man!?
...The second! The second, Sabu!!



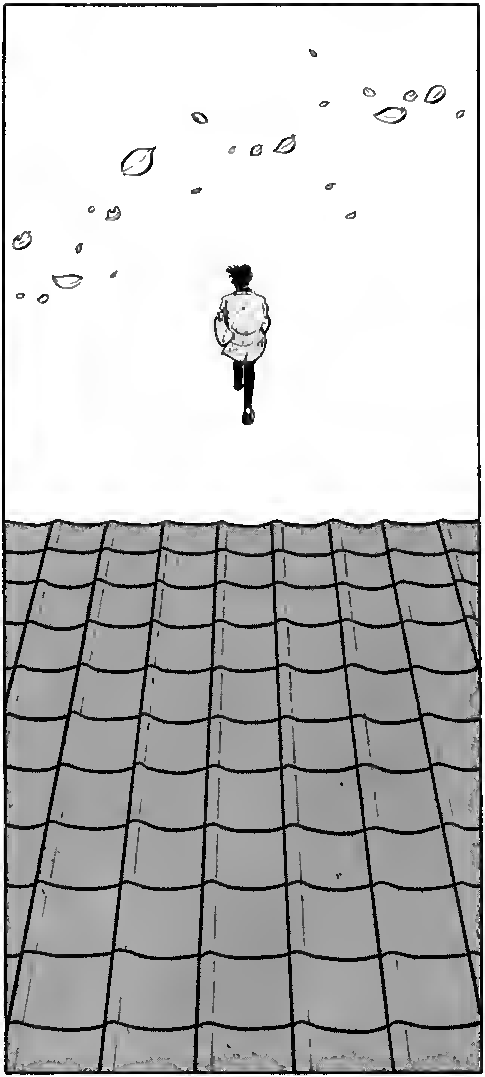

IT WAS WELL-KNOWN THAT THE WINE BARREL BOATS ALWAYS HAD A VIOLENT RACE TO BE FIRST.

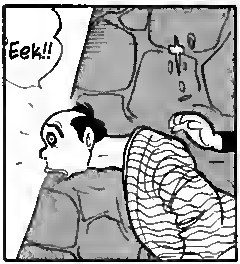
THE "COLD WHOLESALE" PREPARED AT THE BEGINNING OF AUTUMN IN NADA, FUSHIMI, OR ISE, ARE RAPIDLY SHIPPED OFF FROM THE BREWERIES AS SOON AS THE NORTH WIND BLEW, AS THE CHIEF BREWERS CRIED "PRAISE, PRAISE TO THE YOUNG PINE", AND LOADED ONTO THE BOATS WHICH THEN GATHER IN TOBA, WAIT FOR THE RIGHT WEATHER, AND SET SAIL TO EDO. THIS IS WHEN THEY COMPETE FOR THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARRIVE AT EDO, FOR ARRIVING EARLY ENSURES MANY PRIZES, AS WELL AS A VARIETY OF PRIVILEGES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ON TOP OF THAT, THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE WINE WHOLESALE STORES OF EDO CAUSES THE PRICES TO SKYROCKET... SO IT WAS ONLY NATURAL.

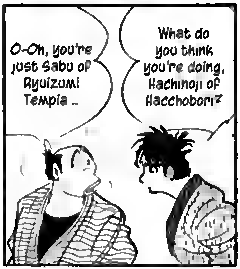


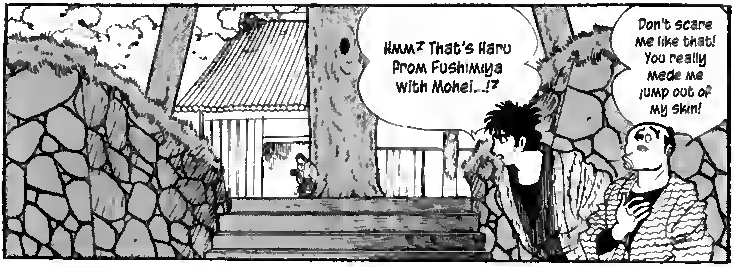

Ichi: "The second one, Sabu. The third and lower would have resigned because there were at least two ahead of them, but the second... Must be mighty frustrated!!"

Oh?

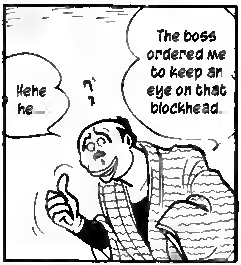


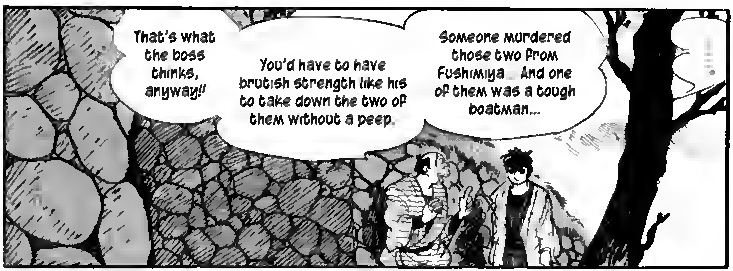

Eek!!

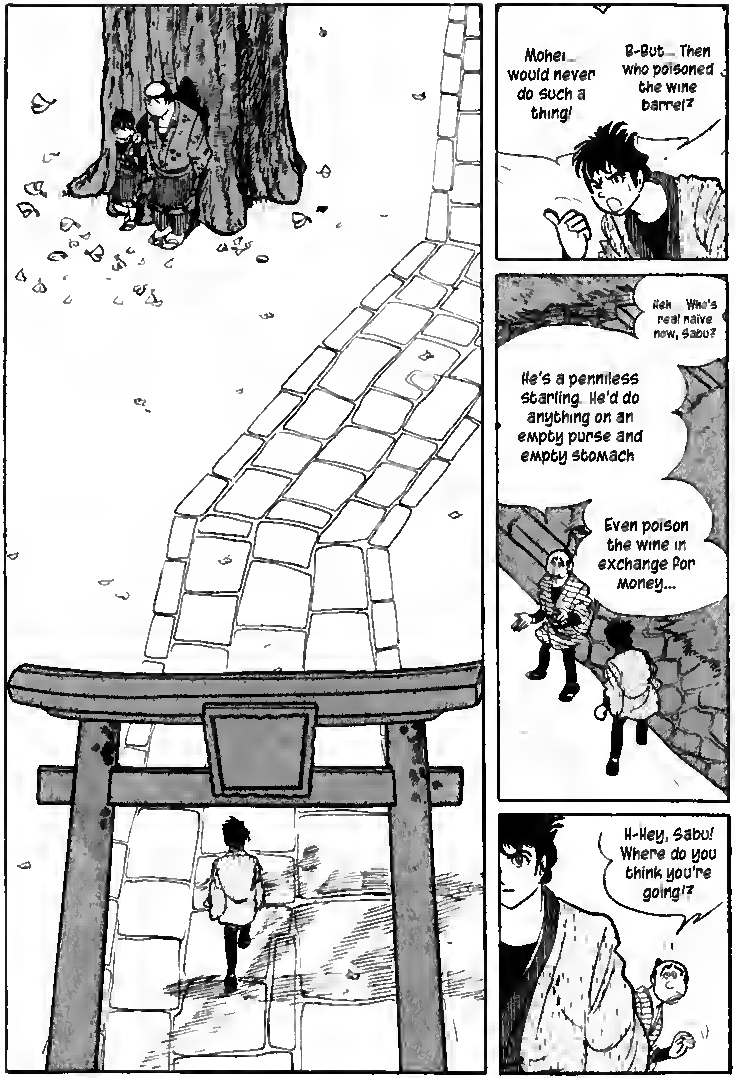

O-Oh, you're just Sabu of Ryuizumi Temple...
What do you think you're doing, Hachinoji of Hacchobori?


Hmm? That's Haru from Fushimiya with Mohei...!?
Don't scare me like that! You really made me jump out of my skin!

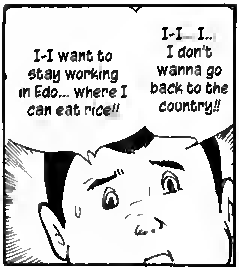
Yeah, I'm keepin' an eye on him.
Hachi-no-ji... Are you...!?


The boss ordered me to keep an eye on that blockhead.
Hehe he...


That's what the boss thinks, anyway!!
You'd have to have brutish strength like his to take down the two of them without a peep.
Someone murdered those two from Fushimiya... And one of them was a tough boatman...


Mohei... would never do such a thing!
B-But... Then who poisoned the wine barrel?
Heh... Who's real naive now, Sabu?
He's a penniless starling. He'd do anything on an empty purse and empty stomach
Even poison the wine in exchange for money...
H-Hey, Sabu! Where do you think you're going!?

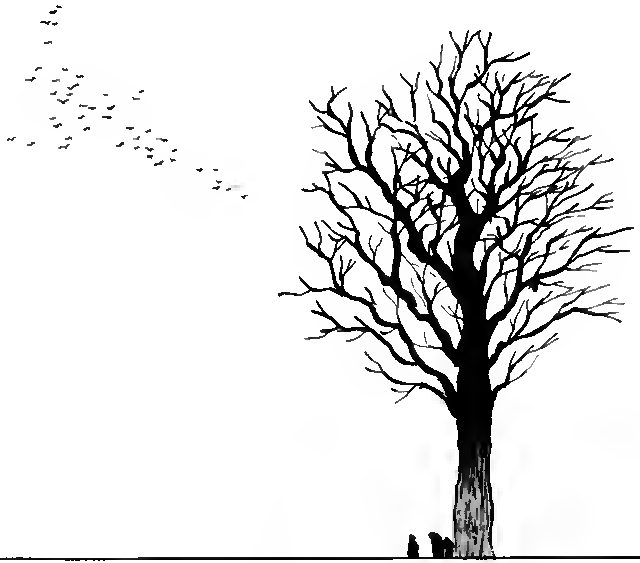
Hey
Ah... Goss!
More importantly... What are you doing in such a cold place?
I'm still... a humble subordinate.
Don't call me Boss
Mohei... was just scolded by the manager...
T-That's not true!
...Or could it be... that I'm boorishly interrupting your rendezvous?
Hmm, what happened this time?
...Yeah.
Of course he'll get hungry if he's sitting on his thumbs!
See... What can he do about it, Goss?
H-He said I'm eating too much... When, well, I'm not doing any work...



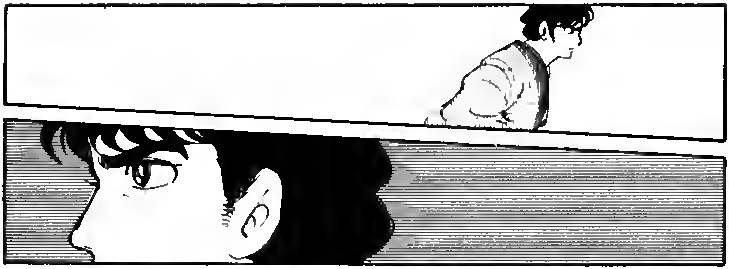
THUS IT WAS SAID, "THE MORE YOU FEED, THE MORE YOU CAN HAGGLE," WHICH MEANT THAT THOSE HIRING THEM COULD HIRE THEM FOR LESS AND LESS.

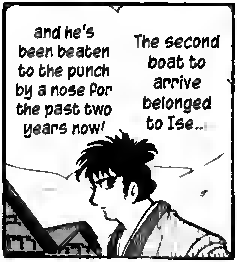
THE STAPLE FOODS IN THE LANDS THEY WERE RAISED IN WERE MILLET AND BARLEY, SO THE RICE THEY GOT TO EAT WHEN THEY WERE IN EDO WAS AN IRREPLACEABLE DELIGHT.

THE GREATEST APPEAL OF EDO TO THE "STARLINGS", MORE THAN THE GORGEOUS TOWNSCAPE AND THE SPECTACLES, WAS BEING ABLE TO EAT RICE.

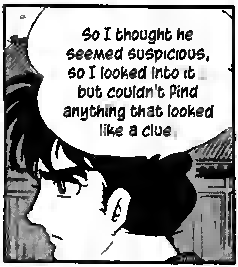


Mohei is a very good person.
Please do, Boss!!
...Don't you worry. I told you before, if anything happens, I'll figure something out!!
...
Dam-mit,
Now I have to reel in the real perpetrator
as soon as I possibly can!!

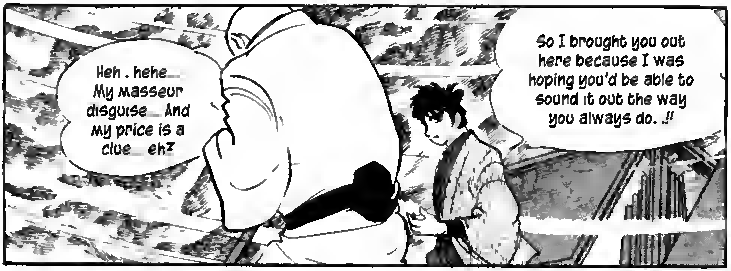


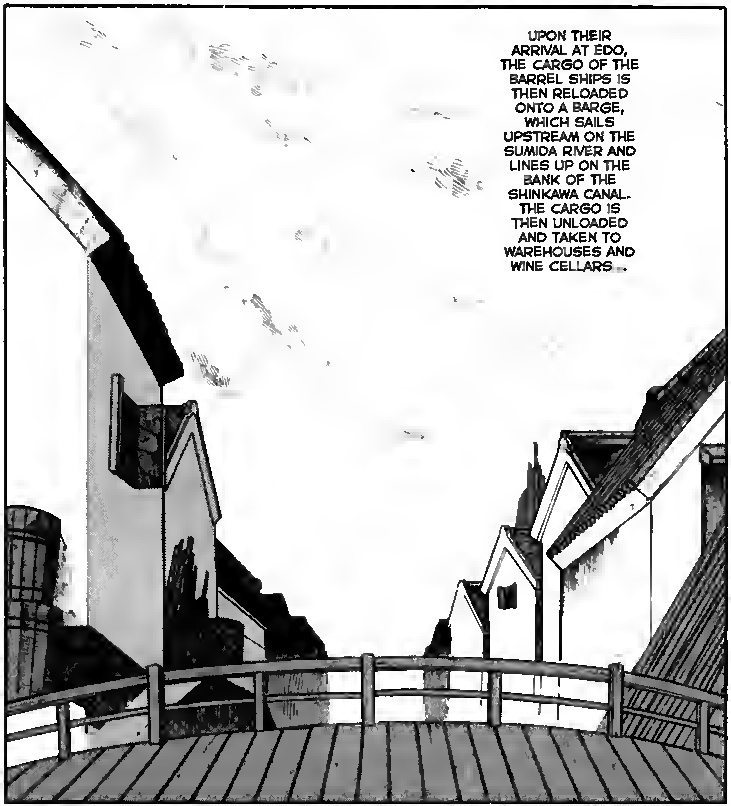

and he's been beaten to the punch by a nose for the past two years now!
The second boat to arrive belonged to Ise...

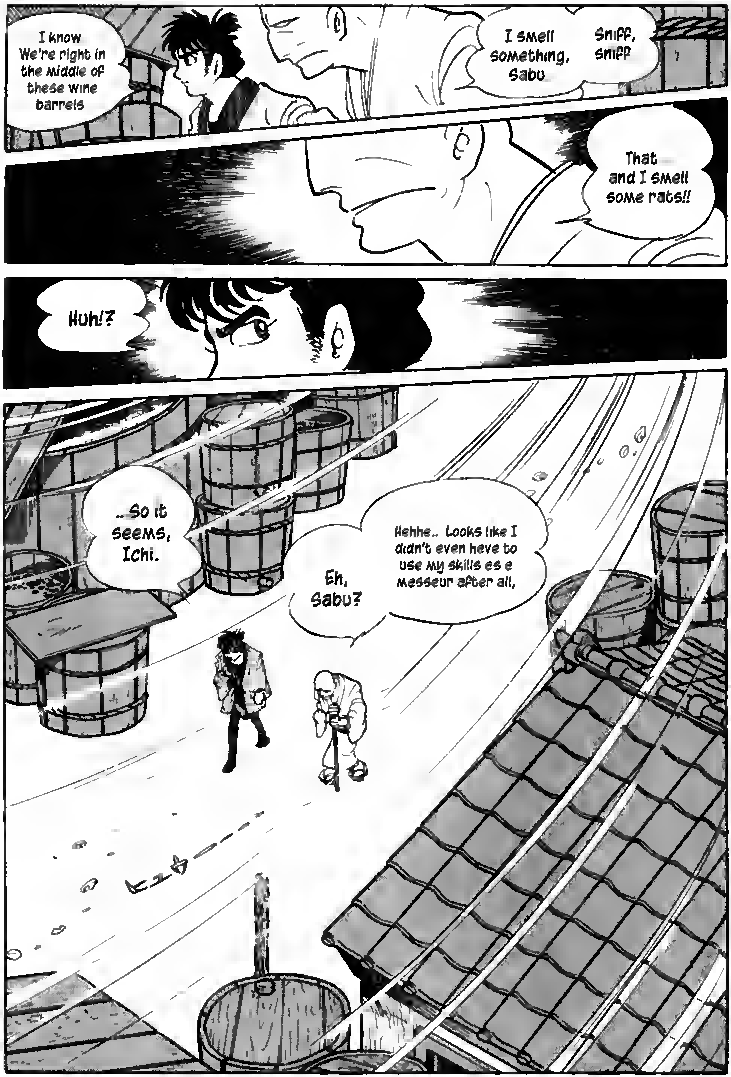
Hmm.

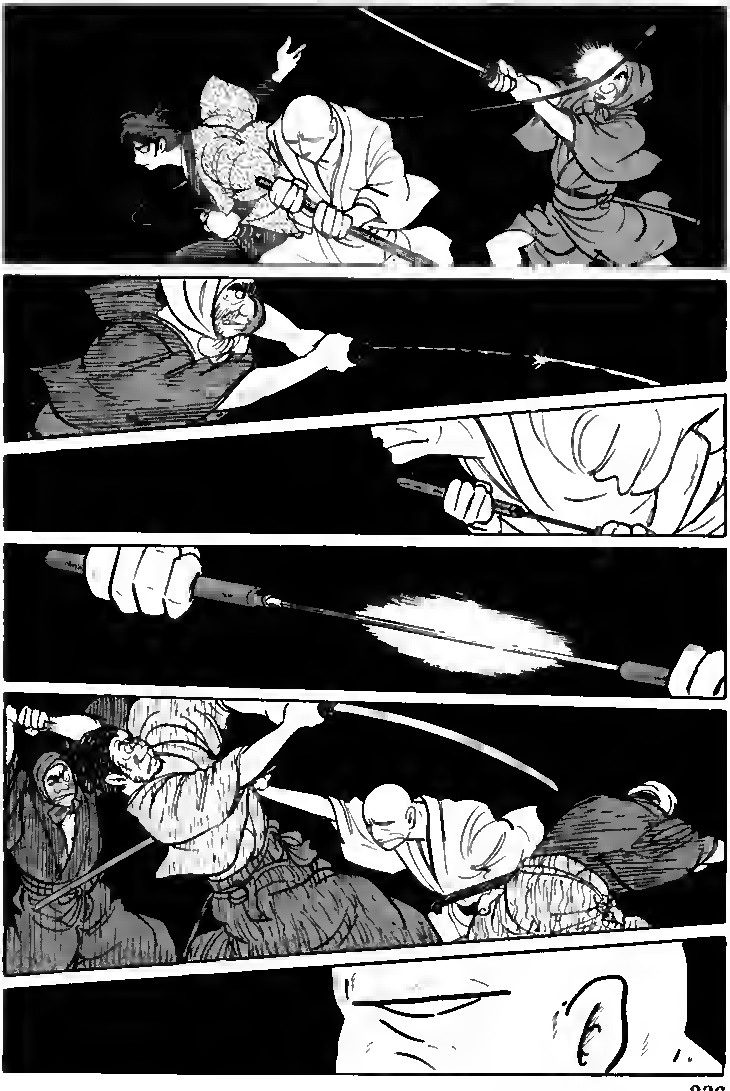

So I thought he seemed suspicious, so I looked into it but couldn't find anything that looked like a clue.

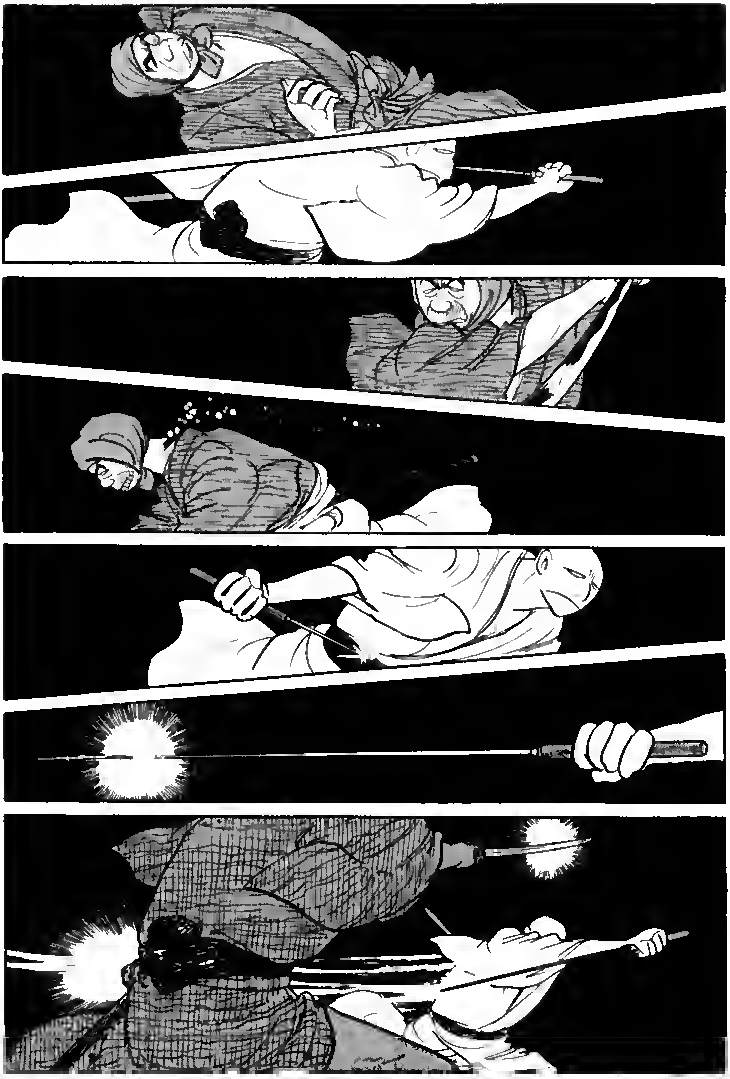
...So, what do you think about the second one, Sabu...?
Yeah, I just don't feel so great about him.

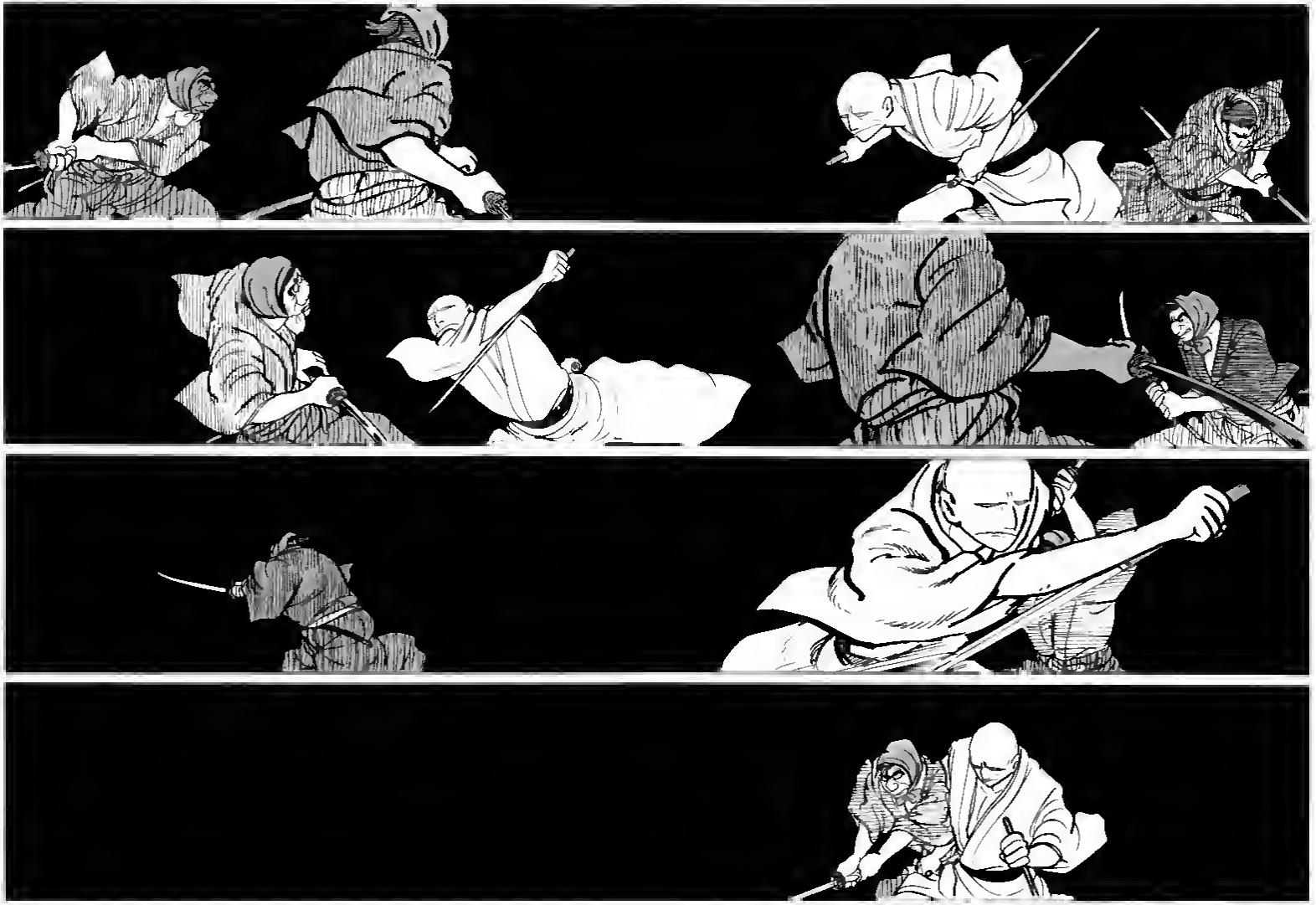

Heh . hehe... My masseur disguise... And my price is a clue... eh?
So I brought you out here because I was hoping you'd be able to sound it out the way you always do. .!!

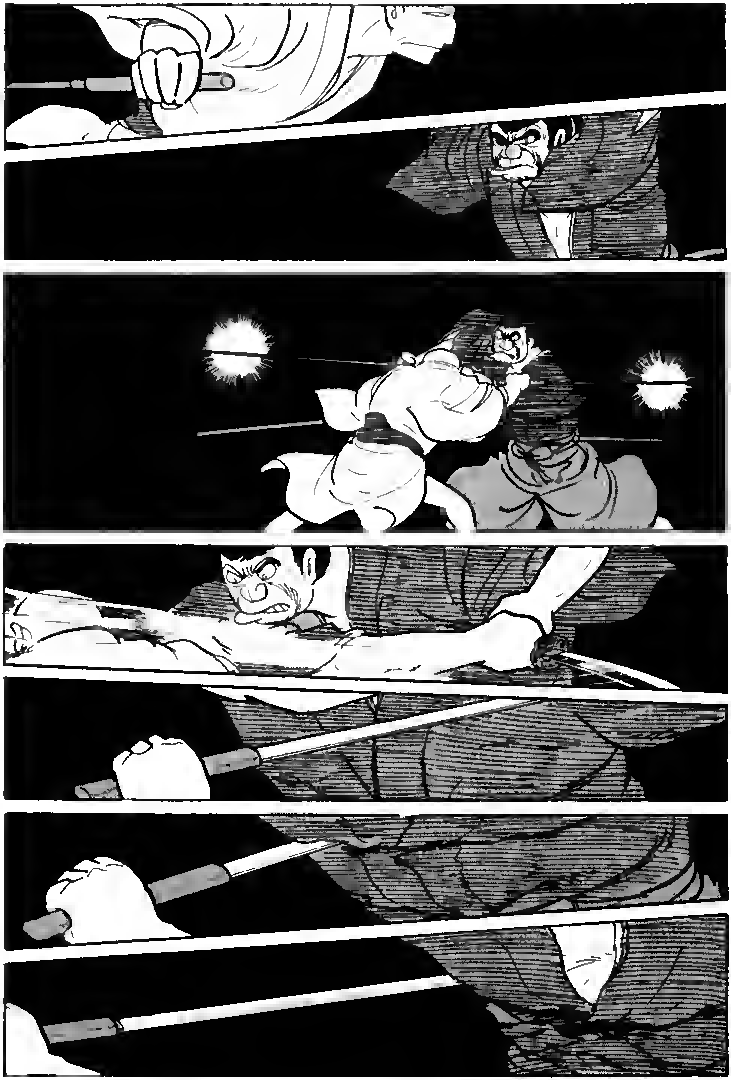

UPON THEIR ARRIVAL AT EDO, THE CARGO OF THE BARREL SHIPS IS THEN RELOADED ONTO A BARGE, WHICH SAILS UPSTREAM ON THE SUMIDA RIVER AND LINES UP ON THE BANK OF THE SHINKAWA CANAL. THE CARGO IS THEN UNLOADED AND TAKEN TO WAREHOUSES AND WINE CELLARS...

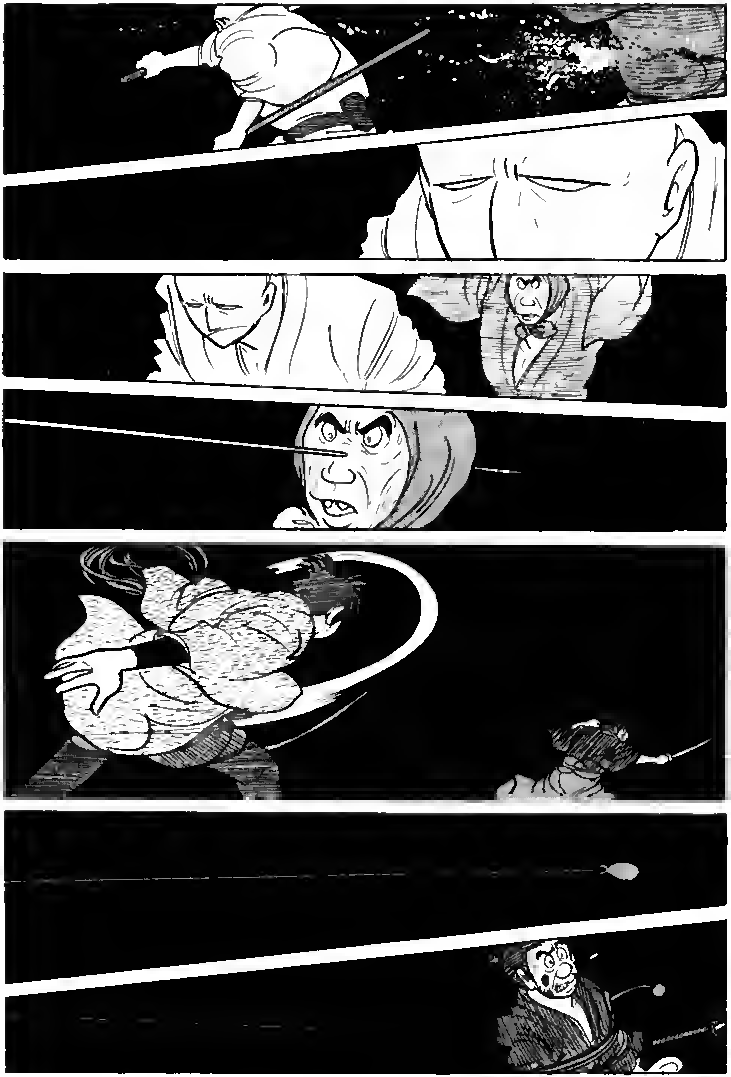

I know. We're right in the middle of these wine barrels
I smell something, Sabu
Sniff, sniff
That... and I smell some rats!!
Huh!?
...So it seems, Ichi.
Eh, Sabu?
Hehhe.. Looks like I didn't even have to use my skills as a masseur after all,

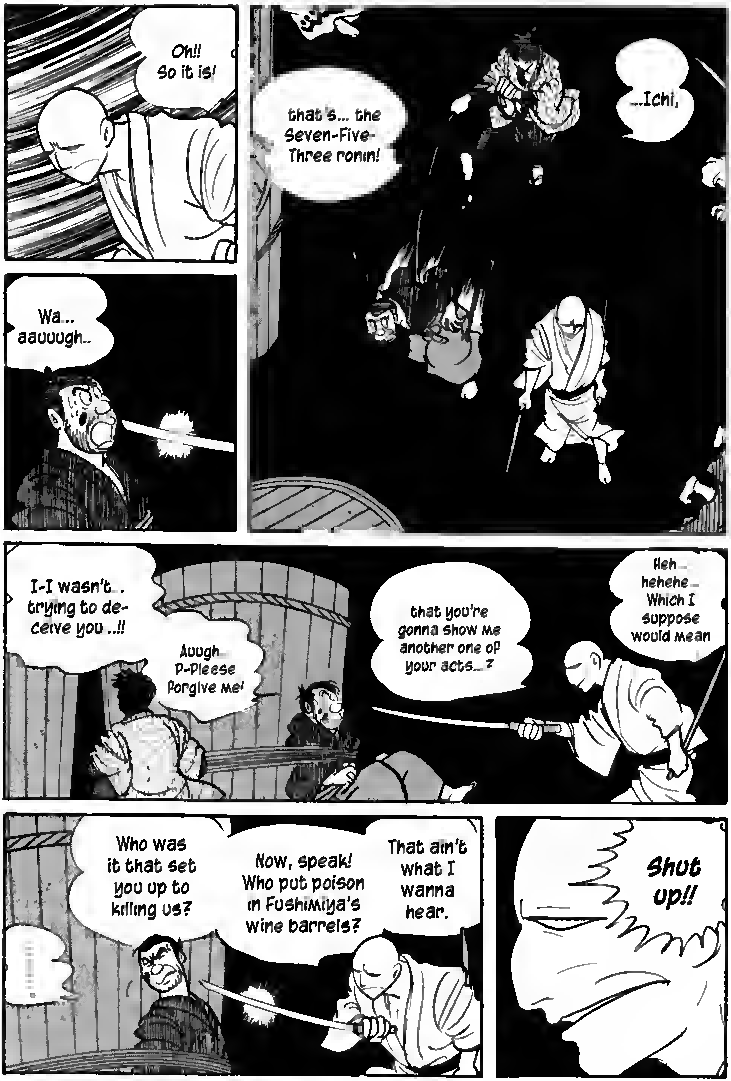




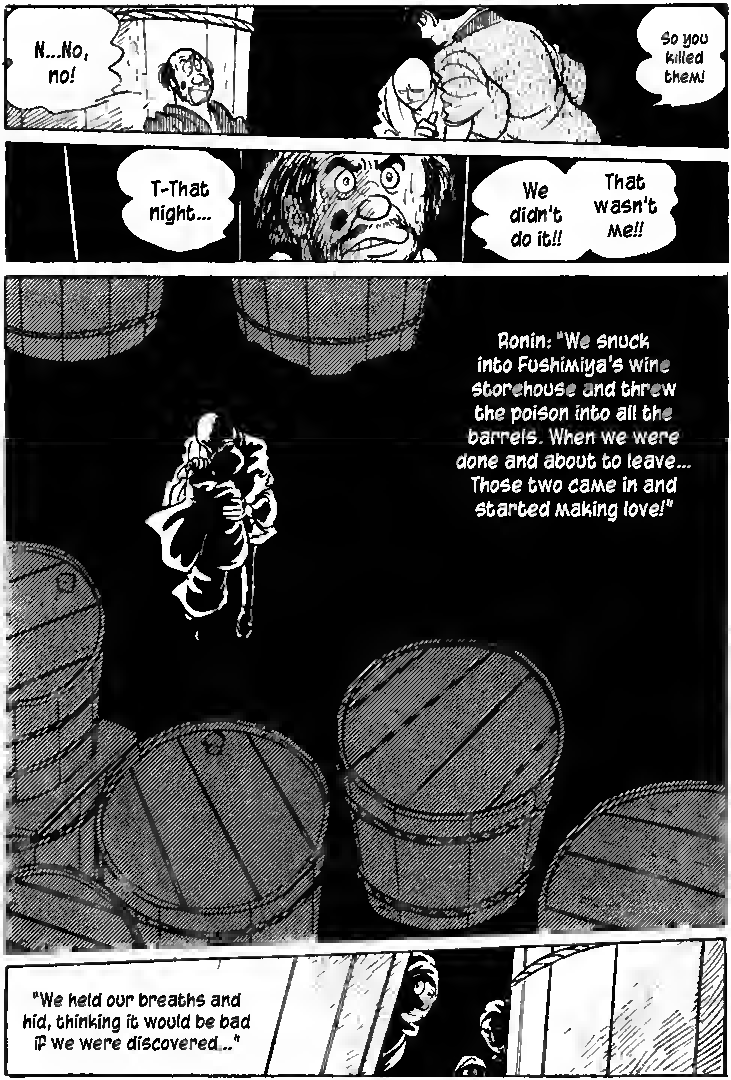







Oh!! So it is!
...Ichi,
that's... the Seven-Five-Three ronin!
Wa... aauuugh...
I-I wasn't... trying to deceive you ..!!
Auugh... P-Pleese forgive me!
that you're gonna show me another one of your acts...?
Heh... hehehe... Which I suppose would mean
Who was it that set you up to killing us?
Now, speak! Who put poison in Fushimiya's wine barrels?
That ain't what I wanna hear.
Shut up!!

If you're playing a pantomime this time ..
Aieeee!
I-It's Iseya that's at fault, not us .. I-It was either that, or go without eating ..!!
The manager of the Ise Wine Wholesale Store.. paid us to do it!!
I-It was us who... poisoned the wine.. But we were asked to do so!!
I'll talk, just s-spare my life!
I-I'll talk! I'll talk!
When you snuck into Fushimiya's wine cellar to poison them.. You saw his daughter and the boatman there, didn't you!?
U... Urrgh.
You know that line's in the handbook for accomplices to murder, right?
Heh.. Society's to blame, and I'M the victim.. is it?

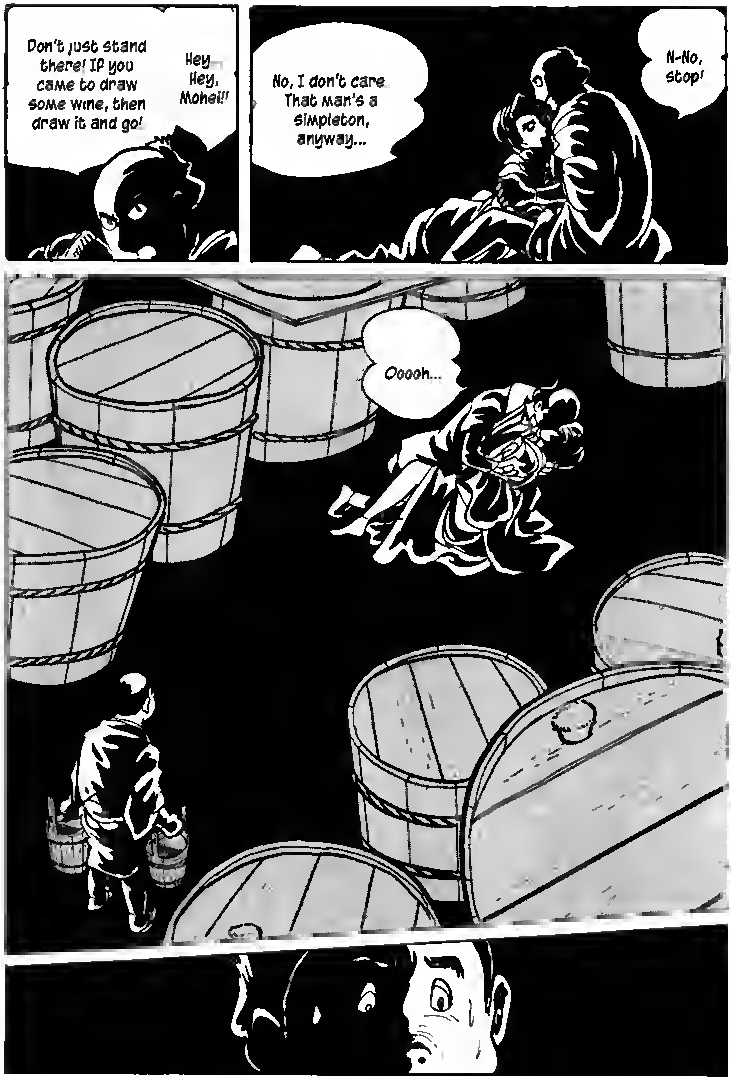

N...No, no!
So you killed them!
T-That night...
We didn't do it!!
That wasn't me!!
Ronin: "We snuck into Fushimiya's wine storehouse and threw the poison into all the barrels. When we were done and about to leave... Those two came in and started making love!"
"We held our breaths and hid, thinking it would be bad if we were discovered..."

O-Oh, it's just you, Mother
Hmm!?
M...My lady...!!

What's with that Pace!?
Yeah, that's right! This man's going to be my husband soon!
.....

Hey, Shinkichi
Teehee-hee...

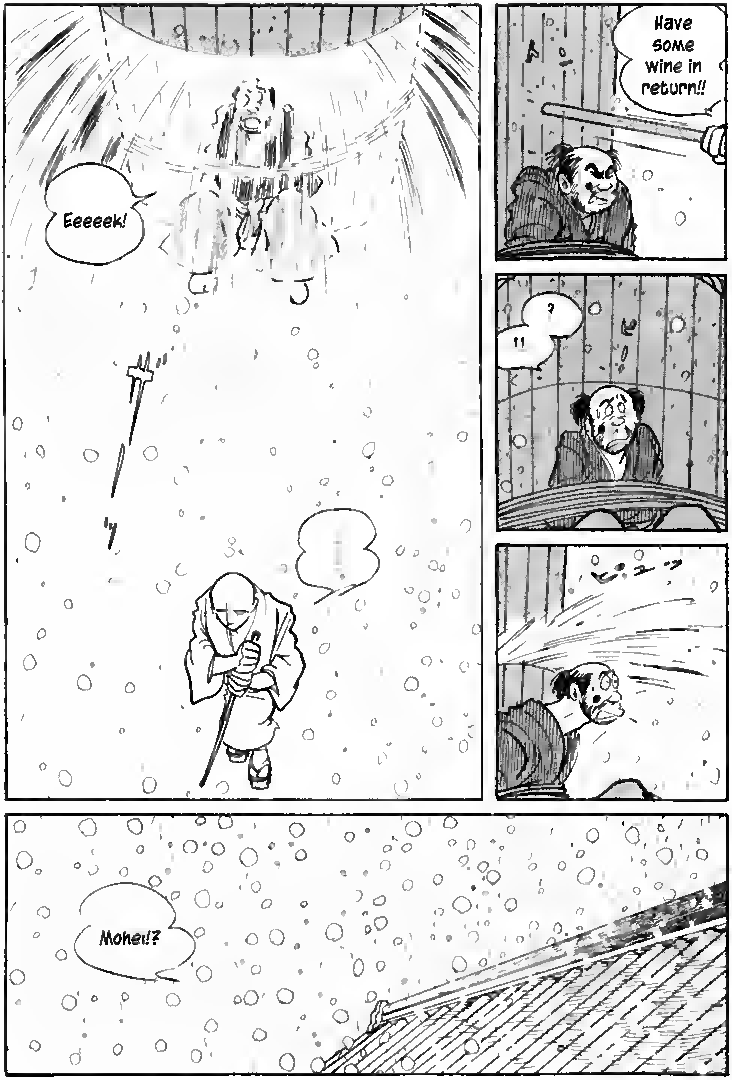
Ah!!


Don't just stand there! If you came to draw some wine, then draw it and go!
Hey... Hey, Mohei!
No, I don't care. That man's a simpleton, anyway...
N-No, stop!
Ooooh...

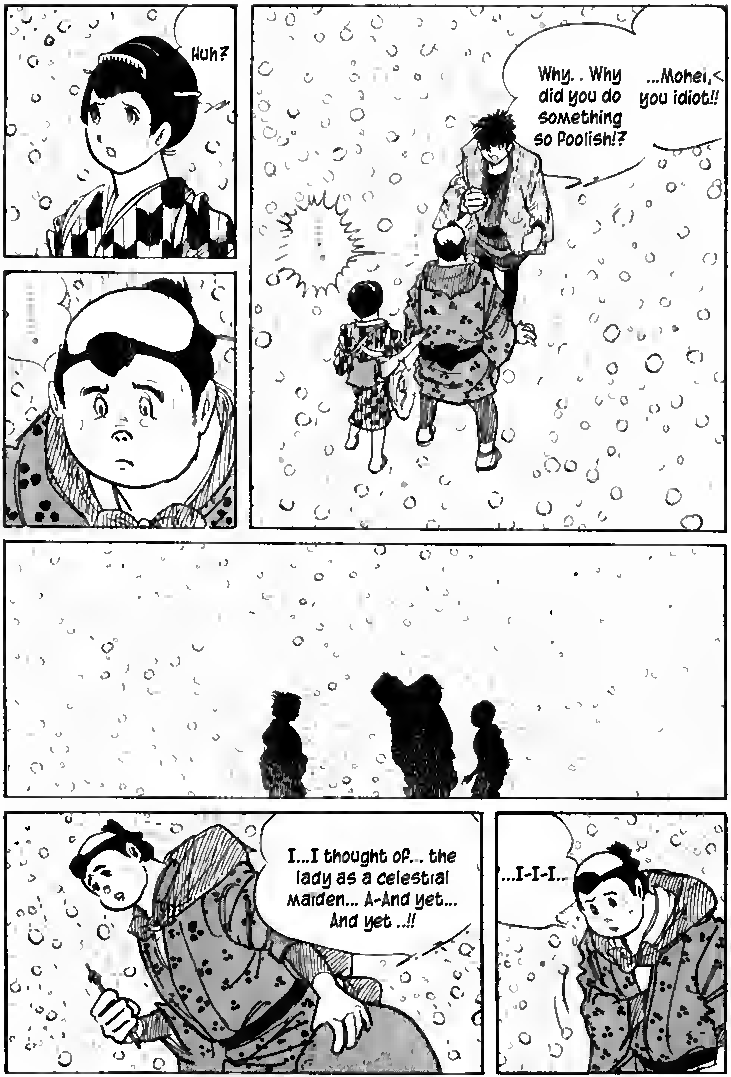
Ugggh!!
Ugh!!
Eek!!
...Agh!!
Urr-
rrgh!

Mnn-
ngh—
It's not true!!

H-He's right. He's telling the truth
N-No, I'm telling the truth!!
W-What good would lying do me now !?
Y-You're spewing nothing but a pack of lies again..!!
.....
I was there with him
.....
Sabu!!
.....
Thank you, samurai... For being honest...


Eeeeek!
Have some wine in return!!
?
!!
Mohei!?

Sob..
Sob...
Mohei!!
I ..It's fine... I... have no choice.
...k-kicked out by the manager.
Mohei was just....!!
Ah, Boss!!
Boss ...?


Huh?
Why. . Why did you do something so Foolish!?
...Mohei, you idiot!!
I...I thought of... the lady as a celestial Maiden... A-And yet... And yet ..!!
...I-I-I..

M...
Mohei...!?

# 佐武と市捕物控 7　氷の朔日

小学館文庫

石森章太郎
昭和13年1月25日、宮城県登米郡に生まれる。昭和30年「二級天使」でデビュー。昭和41年度講談社児童まんが賞、同43年度小学館漫画賞受賞。
代表作「サイボーグ009」「佐武と市捕物控」「ジュン」他。

（検印廃止）

昭和52年7月20日　初版第1刷発行
昭和58年2月25日　第2刷発行

著　者　石森章太郎
©Shotaro Ishimori　1977
発行者　相賀　徹夫
発行所　株式会社　小学館
東京都千代田区一ツ橋2－3－1
〔郵便番号〕101〔振替〕東京8－200
〔電話〕販売　東京（03）230－5749
編集　東京（03）230－5481
製作　東京（03）230－5333
印刷所　図書印刷株式会社

★落丁、乱丁がありましたら、おとりかえいたします。　Printed in Japan
★定価は、カバーに表示してあります。

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 41
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND
HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE
BY TROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHŌTARŌ